



# Office of the Medical Examiner State of Kentucky 2017 Annual Report

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## Prepared by:

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Sarah LaMantia Hargrove, MS  
Data Management Analyst

## Reviewed and Revised by:

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Mandy Combest, MS  
Staff Assistant

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William Ralston, MD  
Chief Medical Examiner



## Office of the Medical Examiner State of Kentucky 2017 Annual Report

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# Overview

## Introduction

The Office of the Medical Examiner investigates deaths occurring in the state of Kentucky, as authorized by Kentucky's elected coroners. The staff assists Kentucky coroners and law enforcement agencies in all aspects of death investigations by determination of the cause and manner of death, identification of the deceased, and collection and interpretation of trace evidence. The Medical Examiner Division performed services for approximately 2,471 deaths. A detailed summary of the case distribution is delineated in this report. It should be noted that this annual report does not include all deaths occurring in Kentucky, but rather those cases investigated by the Kentucky Medical Examiner Program. For total numbers of deaths occurring in the state, please contact:

Office of Vital Statistics  
275 E. Main St. 1EA  
Frankfort, KY 40621  
(502) 564-4212

The following report is presented in two sections. The first section summarizes the activity of the Medical Examiner's Office. The second section presents data routinely collected by the Medical Examiner's Office in regards to medicolegal death investigations performed. The graphs and figures presented are designed to be self-explanatory and provide the reader with a brief understanding of the types of cases completed within this Division.

## Overview—Office of the Medical Examiner – 2017

The Medical Examiners Office performs death investigations and postmortem examinations at four separate regional offices around the state:

- The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Louisville, KY
- The Eastern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner in Frankfort, KY
- The Western Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office in Madisonville, KY
- The Northern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office in Ft. Thomas, KY

There are six basic functions of the Office of the Medical Examiner:

- determine the cause and manner of death of individual decedents in a timely fashion
- identify the dead with a high degree of certainty and written documentation
- prepare and maintain accurate, thorough and timely reports regarding examinations and opinions
- safeguard and account for evidence and personal property
- maintain confidentiality of case information
- base expert opinions on logical conclusions after considering all historical and physical evidence available, in light of current scientific and medical knowledge

All medical examiner offices in Kentucky are staffed by board certified and/or board eligible forensic pathologists. These forensic pathologists are physicians who have undergone at least five years of postgraduate training to become proficient in the subspecialty of forensic pathology. The forensic pathologists routinely perform postmortem examinations; consult with law enforcement officials and attorneys regarding aspects of investigations including blood spatter analysis, crime scene investigation and toxicology interpretation; meet with decedents' families; and provide expert testimony in courts throughout Kentucky.

## Our Mission

The mission of the Kentucky Medical Examiners Office is to serve the public by:

- providing accurate, thorough and efficient medical legal investigations of death, thereby,
- ensuring justice, and
- providing solace, comfort and protection to the living

## Reportable Deaths

### **KRS 72.025 Circumstances requiring post-mortem examination to be performed by coroner.**

Coroners shall require a post-mortem examination to be performed in the following circumstances:

- (1) When the death of a human being appears to be caused by homicide or violence;
- (2) When the death of a human being appears to be the result of suicide;
- (3) When the death of a human being appears to be the result of the presence of drugs or poisons in the body;
- (4) When the death of a human being appears to be the result of a motor vehicle accident and the operator of the motor vehicle left the scene of the accident or the body was found in or near a roadway or railroad;
- (5) When the death of a human being occurs while the person is in a state mental institution or mental hospital when there is no previous medical history to explain the death, or while the person is in police custody, a jail or penal institution;
- (6) When the death of a human being occurs in a motor vehicle accident and when an external examination of the body does not reveal a lethal traumatic injury;
- (7) When the death of a human being appears to be the result of a fire or explosion;
- (8) When the death of a child appears to indicate child abuse prior to the death;
- (9) When the manner of death appears to be other than natural;
- (10) When human skeletonized remains are found;
- (11) When post-mortem decomposition of a human corpse exists to the extent that external examination of the corpse cannot rule out injury or where the circumstances of death cannot rule out the commission of a crime;
- (12) When the death of a human being appears to be the result of drowning;
- (13) When the death of an infant appears to be caused by sudden infant death syndrome in that the infant has no previous medical history to explain the death;
- (14) When the death of a human being occurs as a result of an accident;
- (15) When the death of a human being occurs under the age of forty (40) and there is no past medical history to explain the death;
- (16) When the death of a human being occurs at the work site and there is no apparent cause of death such as an injury or when industrial toxics may have contributed to the cause of death;
- (17) When the body is to be cremated and there is no past medical history to explain the death;
- (18) When the death of a human being is sudden and unexplained; and
- (19) When the death of a human being occurs and the decedent is not receiving treatment by a licensed physician and there is no ascertainable medical history to indicate the cause of death.

**Effective:** July 15, 1998



## Kentucky's Combined Coroner-Medical Examiner System

- (1) The coroner determines whether the case becomes a medical examiner case.
- (2) "Post-mortem examination" as discussed in KRS 72, is not defined as an autopsy. Not all circumstances defined by KRS 72.025 will be referred to the State Medical Examiners System, rather they will be investigated solely by the Coroner.
- (3) The medical examiner and the coroner may discuss whether a complete autopsy, a focused examination, or external inspection with toxicology specimen acquisition is warranted on certain cases. The Medical Examiner makes a MEDICAL DECISION regarding the type and amount of examination done to render a medicolegal opinion and thus provide assistance to the coroner. In all cases submitted by a coroner with an authorization, a report including a final opinion is generated.
- (4) In the rare event that the coroner declines to authorize an examination by the Medical Examiner's office in a case in which law enforcement investigators conclude that ME involvement is crucial, then law enforcement may obtain and authorize an examination by the ME office by procuring a court order through the Commonwealth Attorney's Office.
- (5) In any case undergoing examination by a Kentucky ME, the ME performing the examination renders an official opinion regarding both cause and manner of death.

## Statutory Duty

### *72.210 Purpose of Division of Kentucky State Medical Examiners Office.*

In enacting legislation establishing a Division of Kentucky State Medical Examiners Office for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, it is not the intention of the General Assembly to abolish or interfere with the coroner in his role as a constitutionally elected peace officer. It is the intention of the General Assembly for the office to aid, assist, and complement the coroner in the performance of his duties by providing medical assistance to him in determining causes of death.

**Effective:** July 15, 1998

**History:** Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 65, sec. 4, effective July 15, 1998. -- Created 1968 Ky. Acts ch. 114, sec. 1.

## Medical Examiner Regional Offices

Kentucky has four regional medical examiner offices throughout the Commonwealth. Each office provides coverage to counties within their designated region. These four medical examiner offices together performed 2,471 postmortem examinations in 2017.

### The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

#### *Physician/Doctorate Staff*

- Darius Arabadjief, MD
- Amy Burrows-Beckham, MD
- Randall Falls, DO
- **William Ralston, MD**
  - Chief Medical Examiner
- Jeffrey Springer, MD
- Donna Stewart, MD

#### *Mailing Address*

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)  
Bingham Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
10511 LaGrange Rd,  
Louisville, KY 40223

#### *Phone Numbers*

Telephone: (502) 489-5209  
Fax: (502) 489-5213

#### *Regional Coverage*

The OCME covers the following **CENTRAL** counties in Kentucky:

Adair, Allen, Barren, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Butler, Carroll, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Grayson, Green, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henry, Jefferson, Larue, Marion, Meade, Metcalfe, Monroe, Nelson, Oldham, Russell, Shelby, Simpson, Spencer, Taylor, Trimble, and Warren.

The OCME also provides coverage for the following Southern Indiana counties:

*Southern Indiana counties:* Clark, Crawford, Dearborn, Dubois, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Ohio, Orange, Perry, Scott, Spencer, Switzerland, Warrick, and Washington.

**\*\*As of May 2017, the OCME no longer provides medical examiner coverage for any Southern Indiana county.**

### The Eastern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office (EKME)

#### *Physician/Doctorate Staff*

- Meredith Frame, MD
- Lauren Lippincott, DO

#### *Mailing Address*

Eastern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner's Office (EKME)  
Central Laboratory Facility  
100 Sower Blvd, STE 202  
Frankfort, KY 40601



*Phone Numbers*

Telephone: (502) 564-4545

Fax: (502) 564-1699

*Regional Coverage*

The EKME covers the following **EASTERN** counties:

Anderson, Bath, Bell, Bourbon, Boyle, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clark, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Garrard, Harlan, Harrison, Jackson, Jessamine, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Scott, Washington, Wayne, Whitley, Wolf, and Woodford.

## The Western Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office (WKME)

*Physician/Doctorate Staff*

- Christopher Kiefer, MD

*Mailing Address*

Western Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WKME)

25 Brown Badgett Loop

Madisonville, KY 42431

*Phone Numbers*

Telephone: (270) 824-7048

Fax: (270) 824-7092

*Regional Coverage*

The **WKME** in Madisonville office covers the following **WESTERN** counties:

Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Todd, Trigg, Union, and Webster.

Weekend, holiday, and vacation coverage for the WKME office is provided by the OCME.

## The Northern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office (NKME)

*Physician Doctorate/Staff*

- No physician staff during 2017
  - This office was covered by the OCME and EKME for all of 2017.

*Mailing Address*

Northern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner's Office (NKME)

85 North Grand Avenue

Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

*Phone Numbers*

Telephone: (859) 572-3559

Fax: (859) 572-3558



The **NKME** in Ft. Thomas office covers the following **NORTHERN** counties:

The NKME was not staffed during 2017. The office accepted cases only a few days a month in which the Chief Medical Examiner performed the examinations. All other days, cases from counties served by the NKME were sent to the EKME or OCME for examination.

### Figure 1. Regional Medical Examiner Office County Coverage

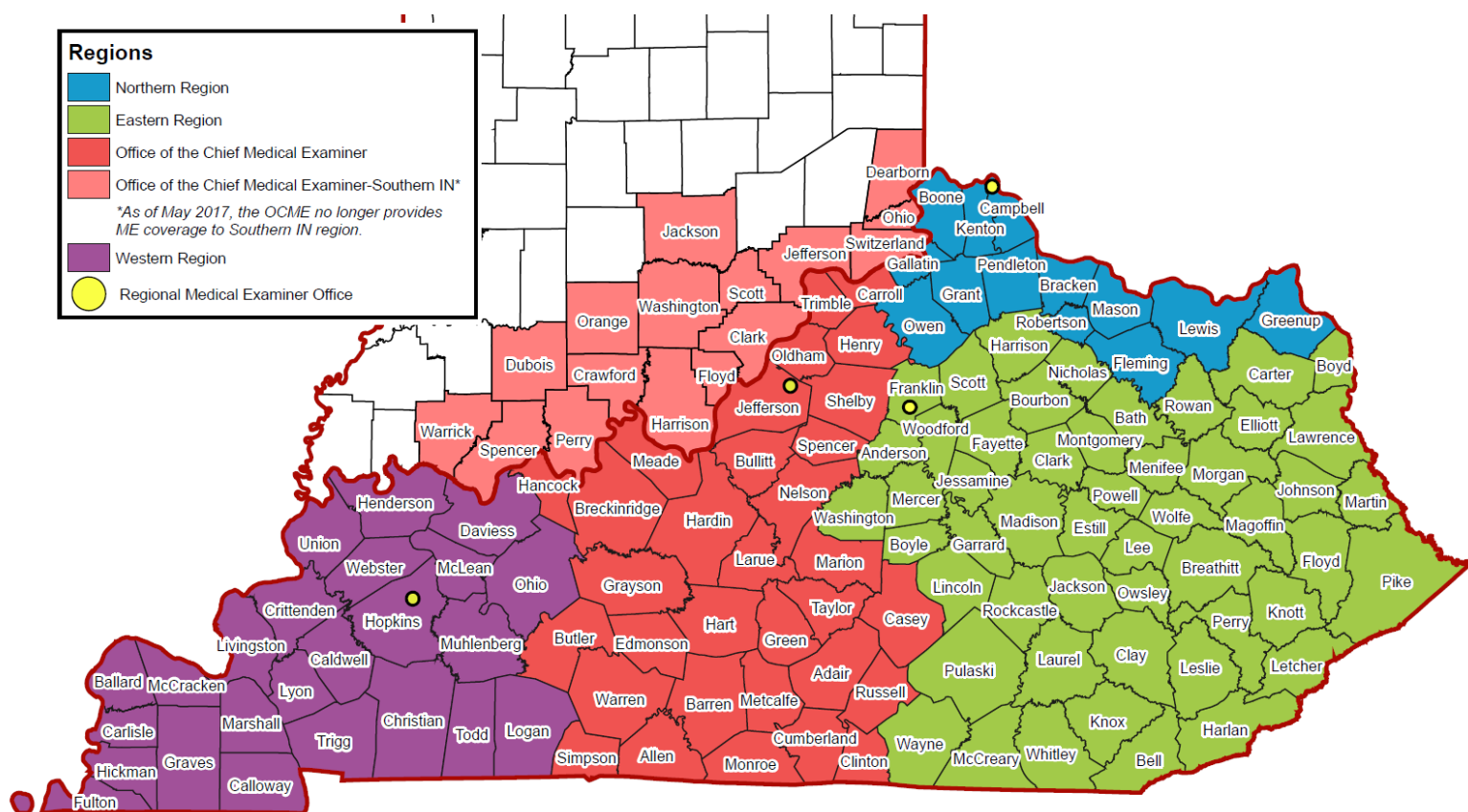
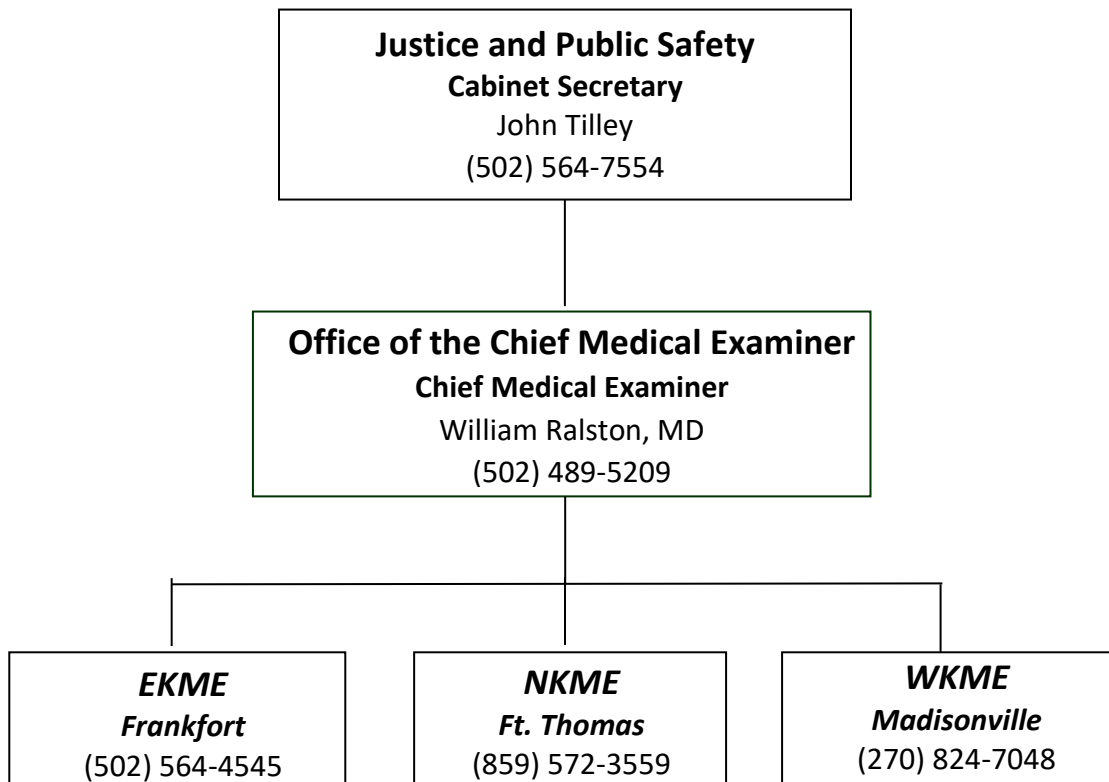


Figure 2. Office of the Medical Examiner Organizational Chart - 2017



## Training and Education

The Medical Examiner's Division provides educational instruction in death investigation to coroners, law enforcement, medical, and social service agencies throughout the state. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner plays an active role in the University of Louisville Department of Pathology educational programs and activities. Staff pathologists participate in the training of medical students, residents and fellows. Furthermore, the Eastern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office plays an active role in the University of Kentucky, Department of Pathology.

### **Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program**

The University of Louisville Division of Forensic Pathology Fellowship program is a one-year extensive training program in the subspecialty of forensic pathology. The trainee works with all of the attending physicians, gaining exposure to a wide spectrum of cases with various histories, causes, manners and mechanisms of death. The trainee is always supervised by one of the attending physicians in the autopsy room. The gross findings are discussed during the dissection, dictated at the table, and are signed out at the end of dissection. Case discussions are initiated prior to autopsy, and continued with staff and investigators through the multi-step process to the final report. The trainee is supervised throughout the process of interpretation of radiographs, microscopic slides, and toxicologic analysis. An attending pathologist always co-signs the final autopsy report with the trainee.

## Accreditation

The Kentucky State Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Louisville, KY is fully accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) through December 2017.

The University of Louisville Division of Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Louisville, KY is fully accredited by The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) through April 2018.

## Disclaimer

This report will present selected data routinely collected by the Medical Examiner Offices. The graphs and tables summarize data collected on all cases performed at the four regional offices.

This report does not represent all deaths occurring in Kentucky, nor all coroner reportable deaths, but rather only the cases investigated by the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Regional Offices. The coroners' offices only request medical examiner assistance on some, but not all coroner reportable deaths. Therefore, this report shall not be used for statewide fatality totals. For statewide totals, please contact:

Office of Vital Statistics  
275 E. Main St. 1EA  
Frankfort, KY 40621  
(502) 564-4212



# Statewide Medical Examiner Data

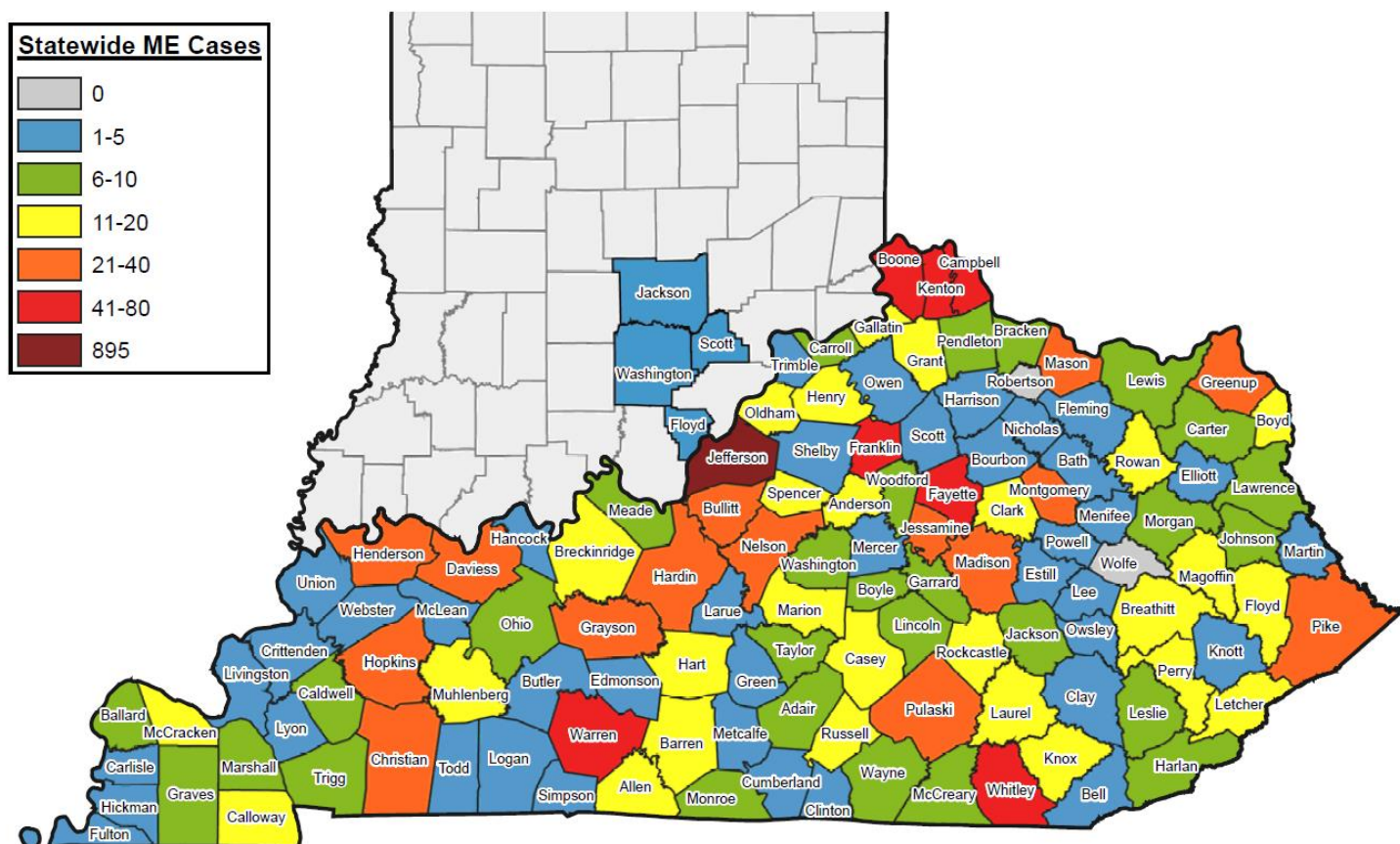
Table 1. Total Medical Examiner (ME) Cases, 2017

<b>Region</b>	<b>Count</b>
OCME Louisville	1,376
EKME Frankfort	875
WKME Madisonville	186
NKME Ft. Thomas	34
<b>State</b>	<b>2,471</b>

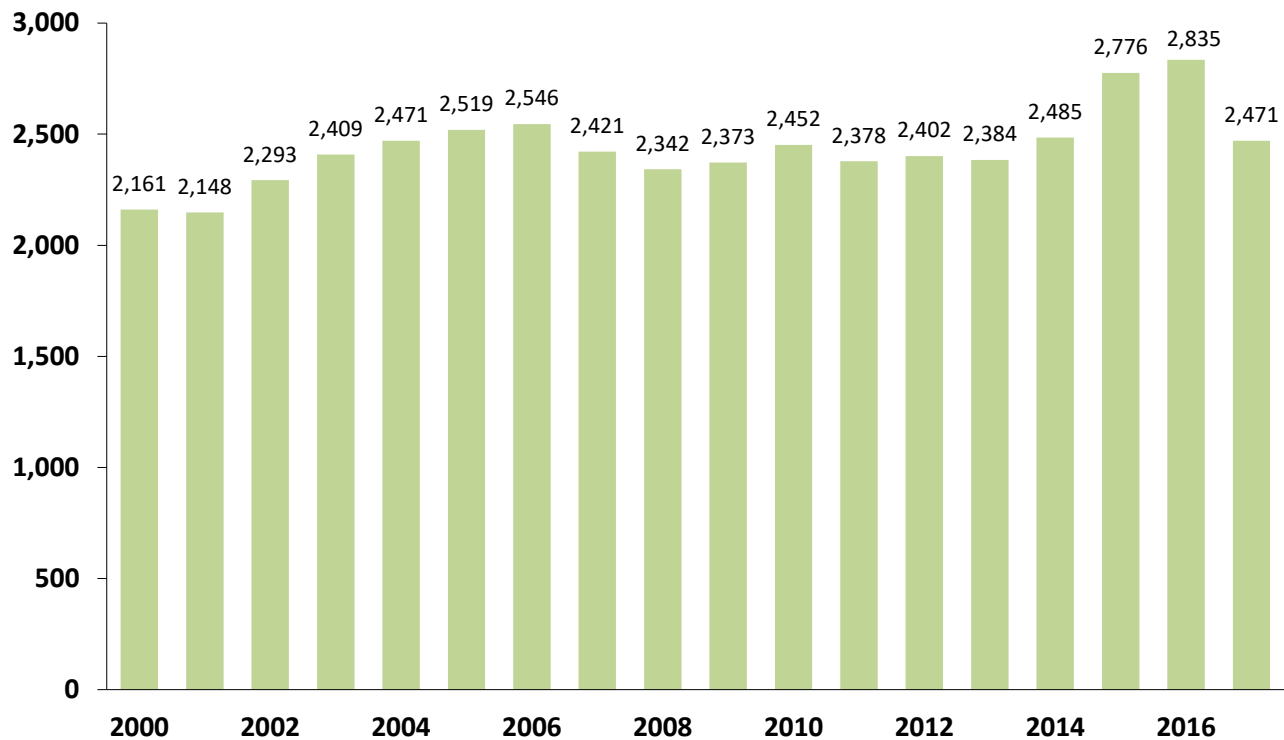
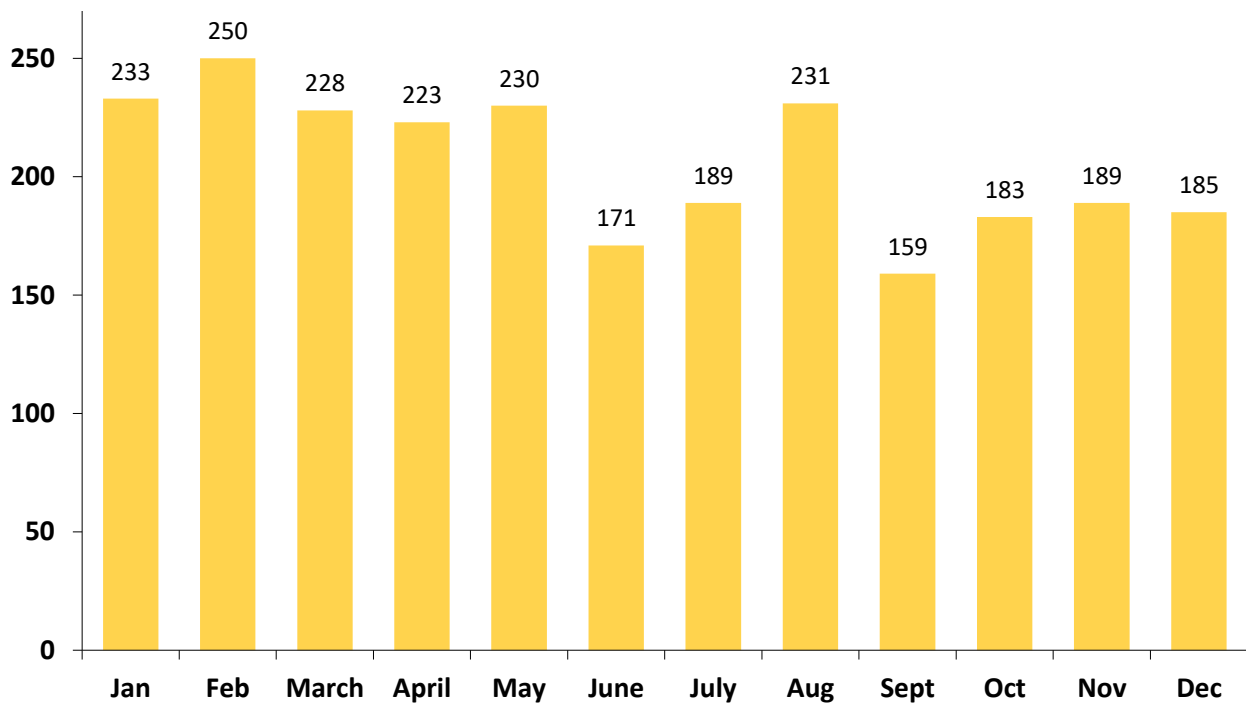
*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*



Figure 3. Statewide ME Cases Sent for Autopsy by Locality of Death, 2017



*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 4. Statewide ME Cases by Year of Autopsy, 2000-2017Figure 5. Statewide ME Cases by Month of Autopsy, 2017

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Table 2. Statewide ME Cases by Demographics, 2017

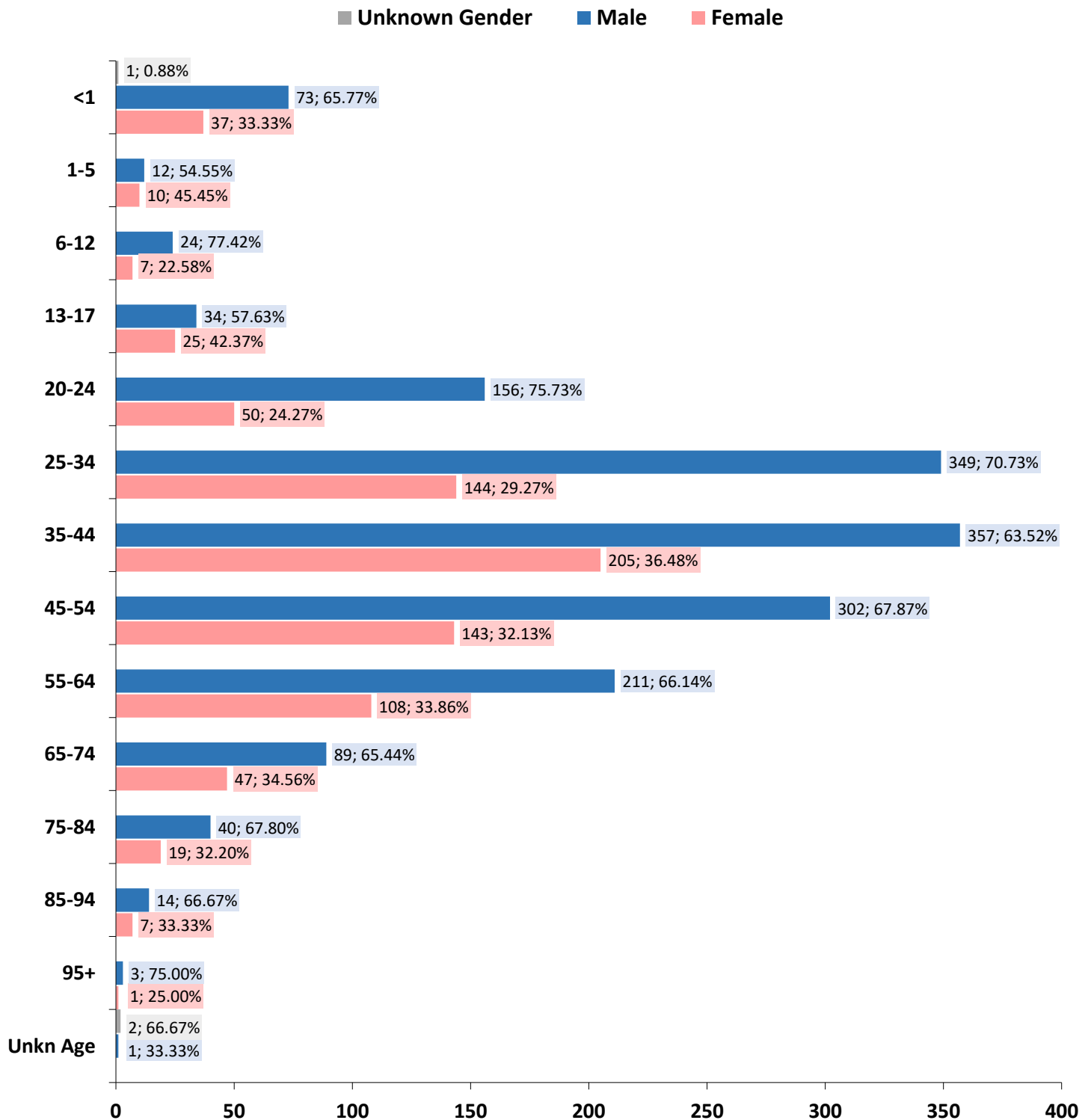
Category	Total	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	1665	67.38%
Female	803	32.50%
Unknown <sup>1</sup>	3	0.12%
<b>Age</b>		
<1	114	4.61%
1-5	21	0.85%
6-12	31	1.25%
13-17	59	2.39%
18-24	206	8.34%
25-34	492	19.91%
35-44	562	22.74%
45-54	445	18.01%
55-64	318	12.87%
65-74	136	5.50%
75-84	59	2.39%
85-94	21	0.85%
>95	4	0.16%
Unknown <sup>2</sup>	3	0.12%
<b>Race</b>		
White	2049	82.92%
Black	318	12.87%
Hispanic	55	2.23%
Asian	13	0.53%
Multi-Racial	17	0.69%
Other	5	0.20%
Unknown	14	0.57%

<sup>1</sup>Gender unknown due to intrauterine fetal demise or unidentified, skeletonized adult remains.

<sup>2</sup>Age unknown due to unidentified, skeletonized adult remains.

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Figure 6. Statewide ME Cases by Age and Gender, 2017



\*\*1 unknown gender/<1 age consisted of intrauterine fetal demise.

\*\*2 unknown gender/unknown age consisted of unidentified skeletonized adult remains.

\*\*1 known gender/unknown age consisted of unidentified skeletonized adult remains.

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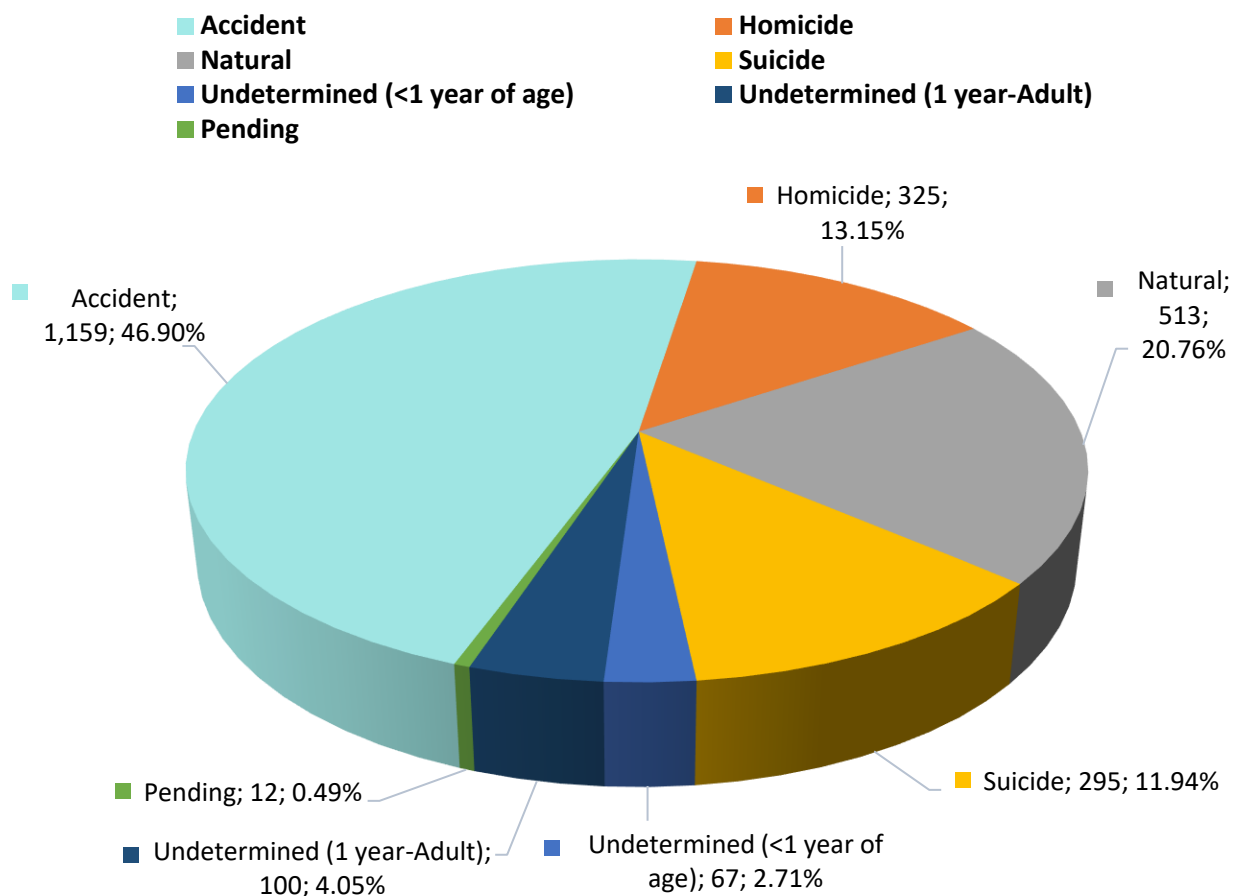
Table 3. Statewide ME Cases by Manner of Death, 2017

Manner	Total	Percentage
Accident	1159	46.90%
Homicide	325	13.15%
Natural	513	20.76%
Suicide	295	11.94%
Undetermined (<1 year of age)	67	2.71%
Undetermined (1 year – Adult)	100	4.05%
Pending	12	0.49%
Skeletal remains of no forensic significance <sup>1</sup>	1	0.04%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,471</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Skeletal remains of no forensic significance are not included in the total forensic caseload.

Figure 7. Statewide ME Cases by Manner of Death, 2017

N=2,471



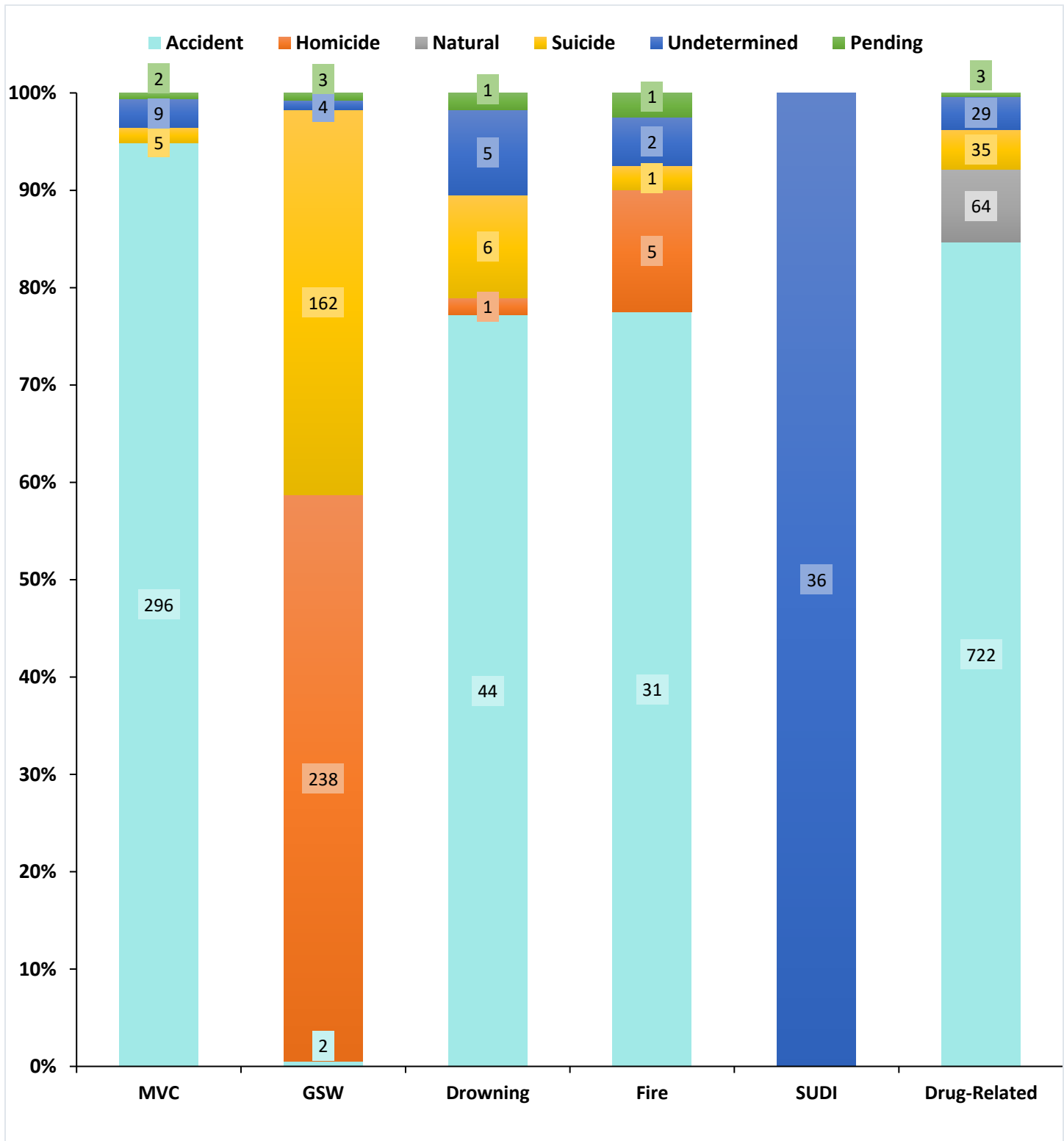
*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Table 4. Statewide ME Cases by Common Causes of Death, 2017

<b>Cause of Death<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)	312	12.63%
Gunshot Wound (GSW)	409	16.55%
Drowning	57	2.31%
Fire	40	1.62%
SUID	36	1.46%
Drug-Related	853	34.52%

<sup>1</sup>The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 8. Statewide ME Cases by Common Causes of Death and Manner, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

<sup>2</sup>Some decedents may have more than one cause of death; therefore, those decedents may be represented multiple times in chart.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*



Table 5. Statewide ME Adult (>18) Homicides by Cause of Death, 2017

N=286

Cause of Death	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>
Gunshot Wound	219	76.57%
Sharp Force Injury	28	9.79%
Blunt Force Injury	28	9.79%
Asphyxia	12	4.20%
Neglect	4	1.40%
Fire	3	1.05%
Natural Event <sup>2</sup>	2	0.70%
Unspecified Head Trauma	1	0.35%

<sup>1</sup>Percentage is calculated using the total number of adult homicide deaths, n=286. Percentage may be >100% as some decedents may have more than one type of injury indicated as cause of death.

<sup>2</sup>Natural events and complications thereof occurring during or following an altercation/assault. Natural event may or may not be in the setting of natural disease.

Table 6. Statewide ME Adult (>18) Suicides by Cause of Death, 2017

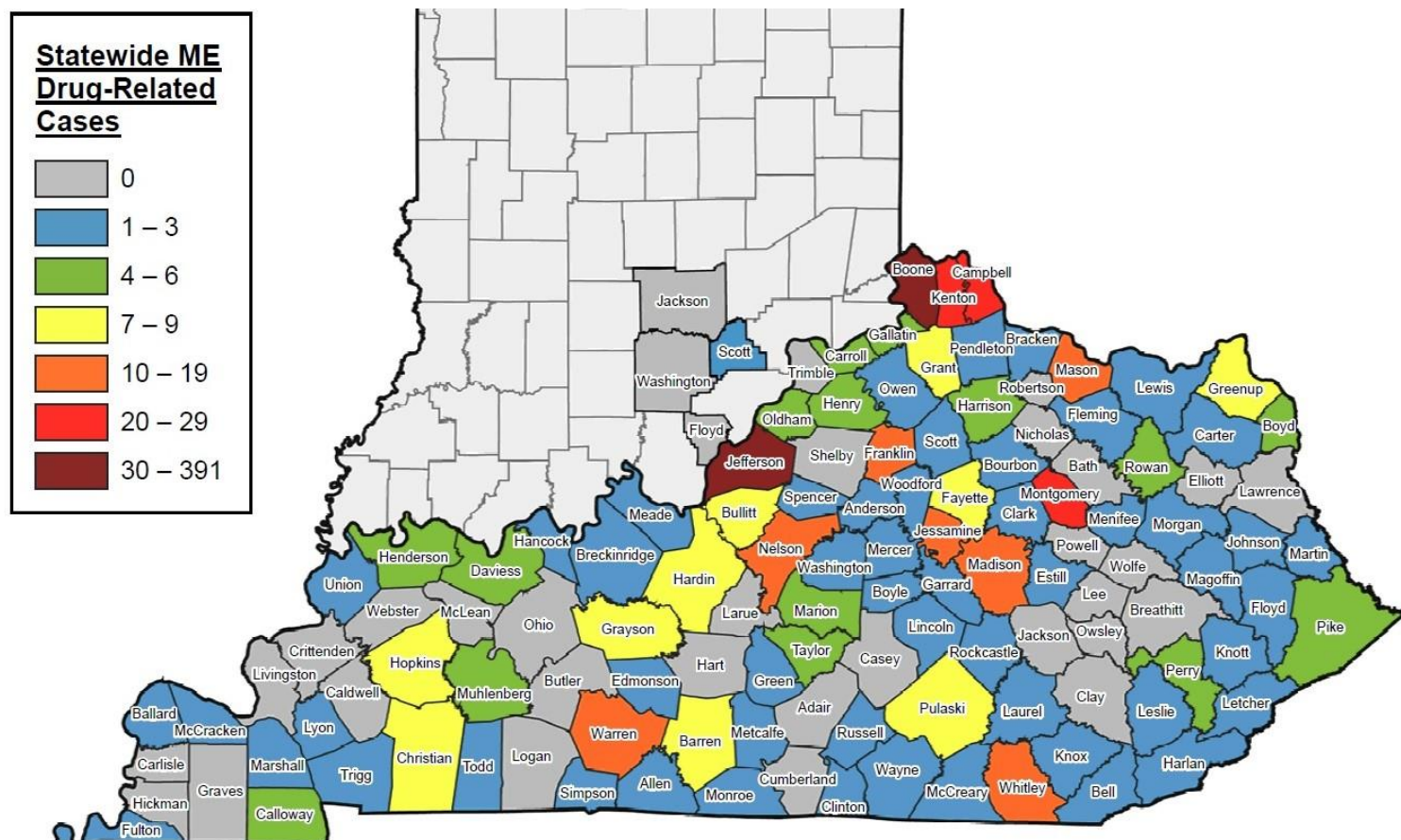
N=278

Cause of Death	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>
Gunshot Wound	151	54.32%
Asphyxia	67	24.10%
Drug-Related	32	11.51%
Sharp Force Injury	14	5.04%
Blunt Force Injury	5	1.80%
Drowning	5	1.80%
Pedestrian versus MVC	4	1.44%
Alcohol-Related	2	0.72%
Fire	1	0.36%
MVC	1	0.36%
Starvation	1	0.36%

<sup>1</sup>Percentage is calculated using the total number of adult suicide deaths, n=278. Percentage may be >100% as some decedents may have more than one type of injury indicated as cause of death.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 9. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases by Locality of Death, 2017



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Table 7. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases by Manner of Death, 2017<sup>1</sup>

Manner	Total	Percentage
Accident	722	84.64%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural <sup>2</sup>	64	7.50%
Suicide	35	4.10%
Undetermined	29	3.40%
Pending	3	0.35%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>853</b>	

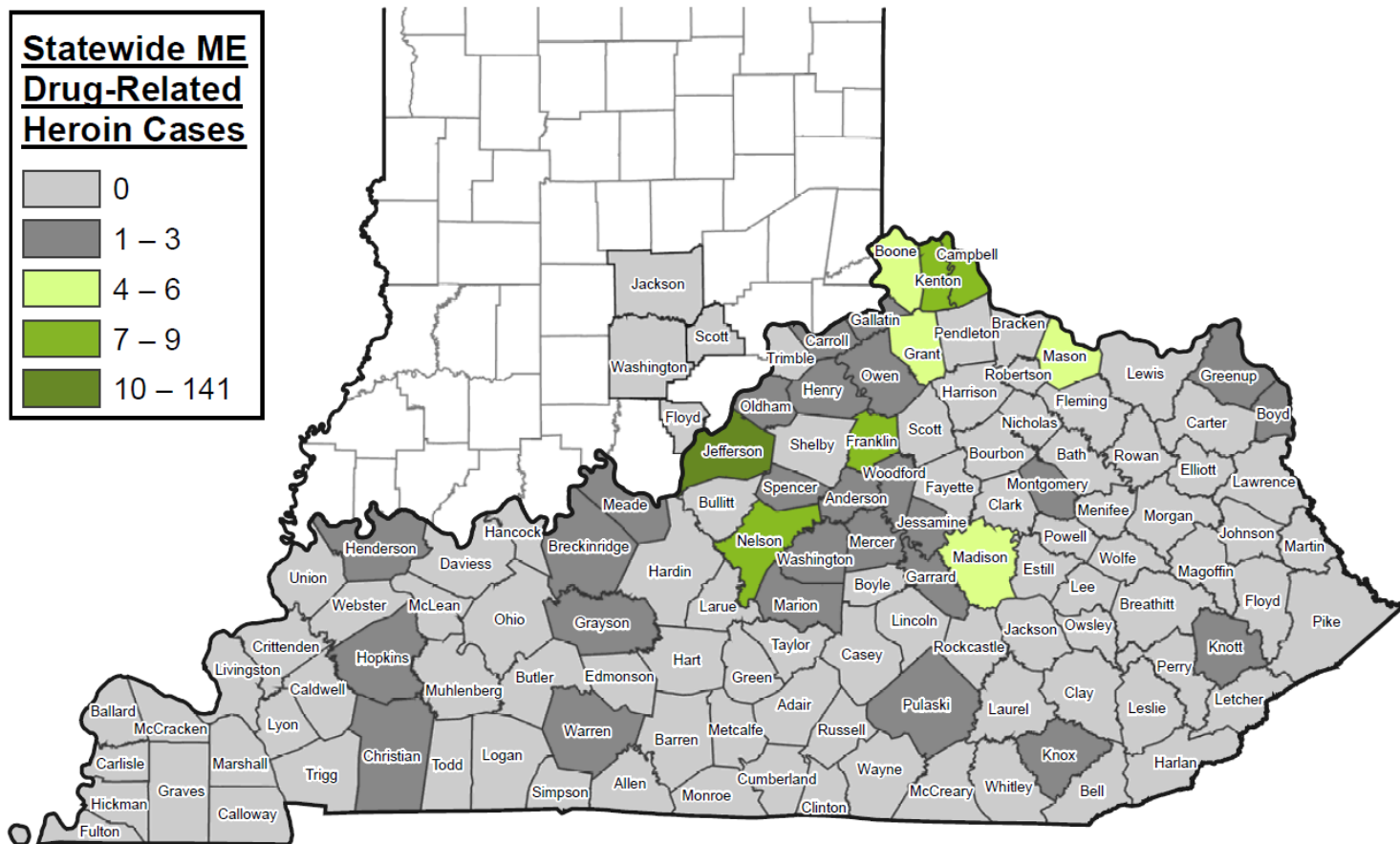
<sup>1</sup>Statewide drug-related total includes Indiana drug-related cases.<sup>2</sup>Natural manner of death involves individuals with chronic substance use and complications thereof.Table 8. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases by Demographics, 2017<sup>1</sup>

Category	Total	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	523	61.31%
Female	330	38.69%
Unknown	0	0.00%
<b>Age</b>		
<17	3	0.35%
18-24	59	6.92%
25-34	238	27.90%
35-44	279	32.71%
45-54	172	20.16%
55-64	83	9.73%
65-74	18	2.11%
75-84	1	0.12%
85-94	0	0.00%
>95	0	0.00%
Unknown	0	0.00%
<b>Race</b>		
White	771	90.39%
Black	65	7.62%
Hispanic	8	0.94%
Asian	4	0.47%
Multi-Racial	2	0.23%
Other	0	0.00%
Unknown	3	0.35%

<sup>1</sup>Statewide drug-related total includes Indiana drug-related cases.

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Figure 10. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Heroin by Locality of Death, 2017



*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Table 9. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Heroin by Manner of Death, 2017

Manner	Total	Percentage
Accident	216	95.58%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural <sup>1</sup>	2	0.88%
Suicide	2	0.88%
Undetermined	6	2.65%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Natural manner of death involves individuals with chronic substance use and complications thereof.

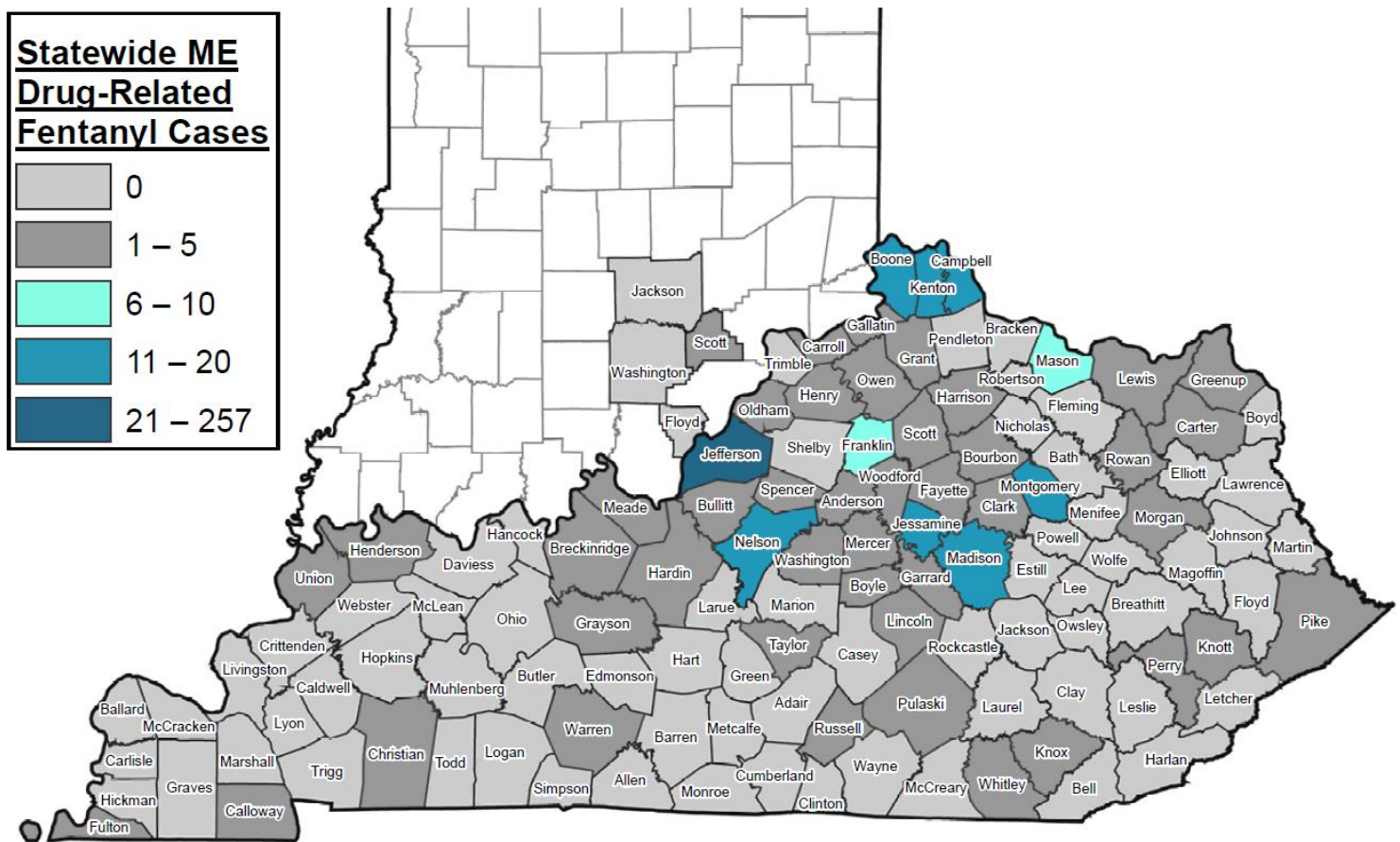
Table 10. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Heroin by Demographics, 2017

Category	Total	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	158	69.91%
Female	68	30.09%
Unknown	0	0.00%
<b>Age</b>		
<17	0	0.00%
18-24	22	9.73%
25-34	82	36.28%
35-44	71	31.42%
45-54	33	14.60%
55-64	14	6.19%
65-74	4	1.77%
75-84	0	0.00%
85-94	0	0.00%
>95	0	0.00%
Unknown	0	0.00%
<b>Race</b>		
White	207	91.59%
Black	15	6.64%
Hispanic	3	1.33%
Asian	1	0.44%
Multi-Racial	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Unknown	0	0.00%

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Figure 11. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Fentanyl by Locality of Death, 2017



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Table 11. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Fentanyl by Manner of Death, 2017<sup>1</sup>

Manner	Total	Percentage
Accident	436	94.99%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural <sup>2</sup>	6	1.31%
Suicide	5	1.09%
Undetermined	10	2.18%
Pending	2	0.44%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>459</b>	

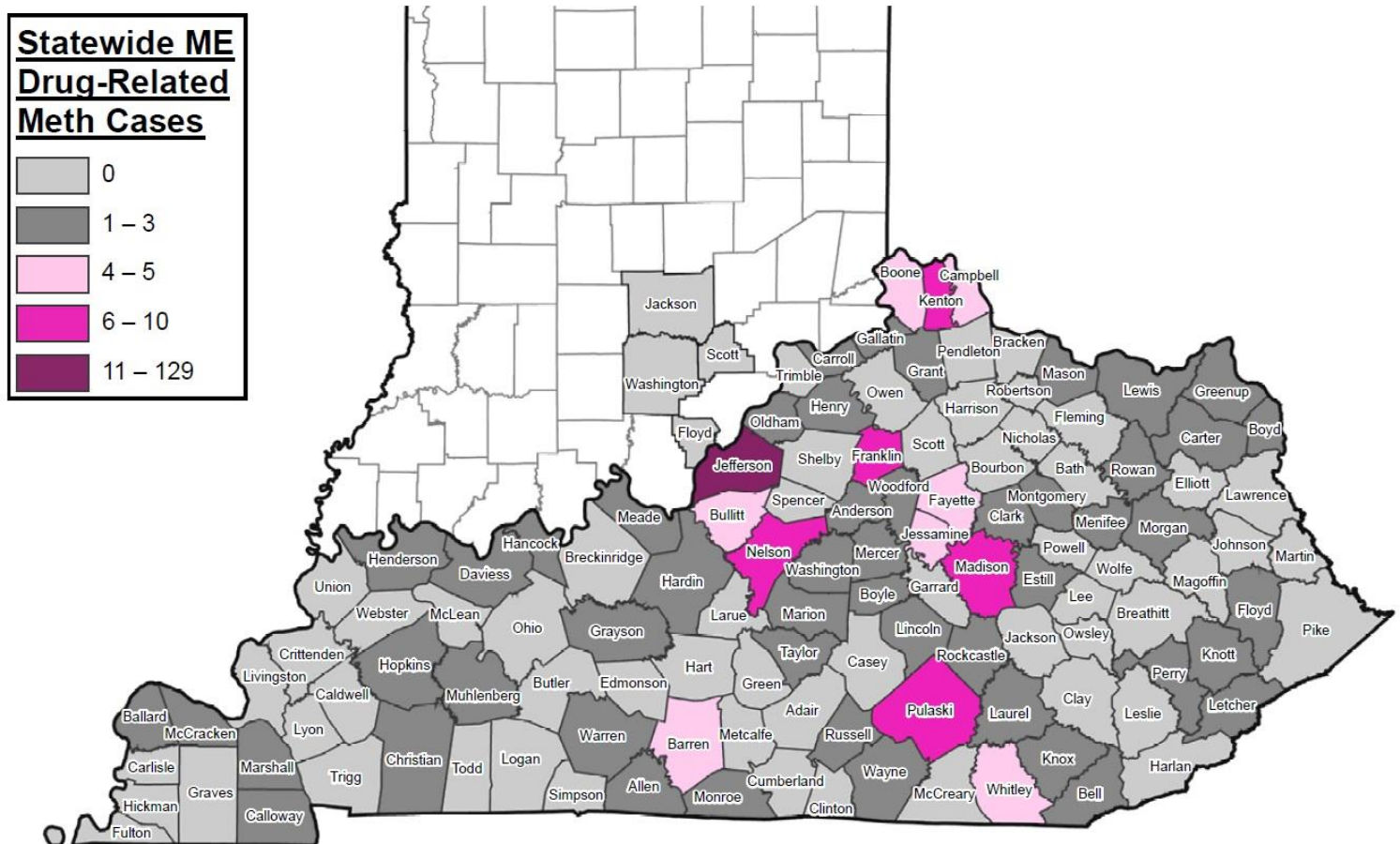
<sup>1</sup>Statewide drug-related total includes Indiana drug-related cases.<sup>2</sup>Natural manner of death involves individuals with chronic substance use and complications thereof.Table 12. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Fentanyl by Demographics, 2017<sup>1</sup>

Category	Total	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	303	66.01%
Female	156	33.99%
Unknown	0	0.00%
<b>Age</b>		
<17	1	0.22%
18-24	39	8.50%
25-34	150	32.68%
35-44	158	34.42%
45-54	73	15.90%
55-64	33	7.19%
65-74	5	1.09%
75-84	0	0.00%
85-94	0	0.00%
>95	0	0.00%
Unknown	0	0.00%
<b>Race</b>		
White	410	89.32%
Black	39	8.50%
Hispanic	4	0.87%
Asian	4	0.87%
Multi-Racial	1	0.22%
Other	0	0.00%
Unknown	1	0.22%

<sup>1</sup>Statewide drug-related total includes Indiana drug-related cases.

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## Death, 2017



*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Table 13. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Methamphetamine by Manner of Death, 2017

Manner	Total	Percentage
Accident	256	93.43%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural <sup>1</sup>	8	2.92%
Suicide	4	1.46%
Undetermined	5	1.82%
Pending	1	0.36%
TOTAL	274	

<sup>1</sup>Natural manner of death involves individuals with chronic substance use and complications thereof.

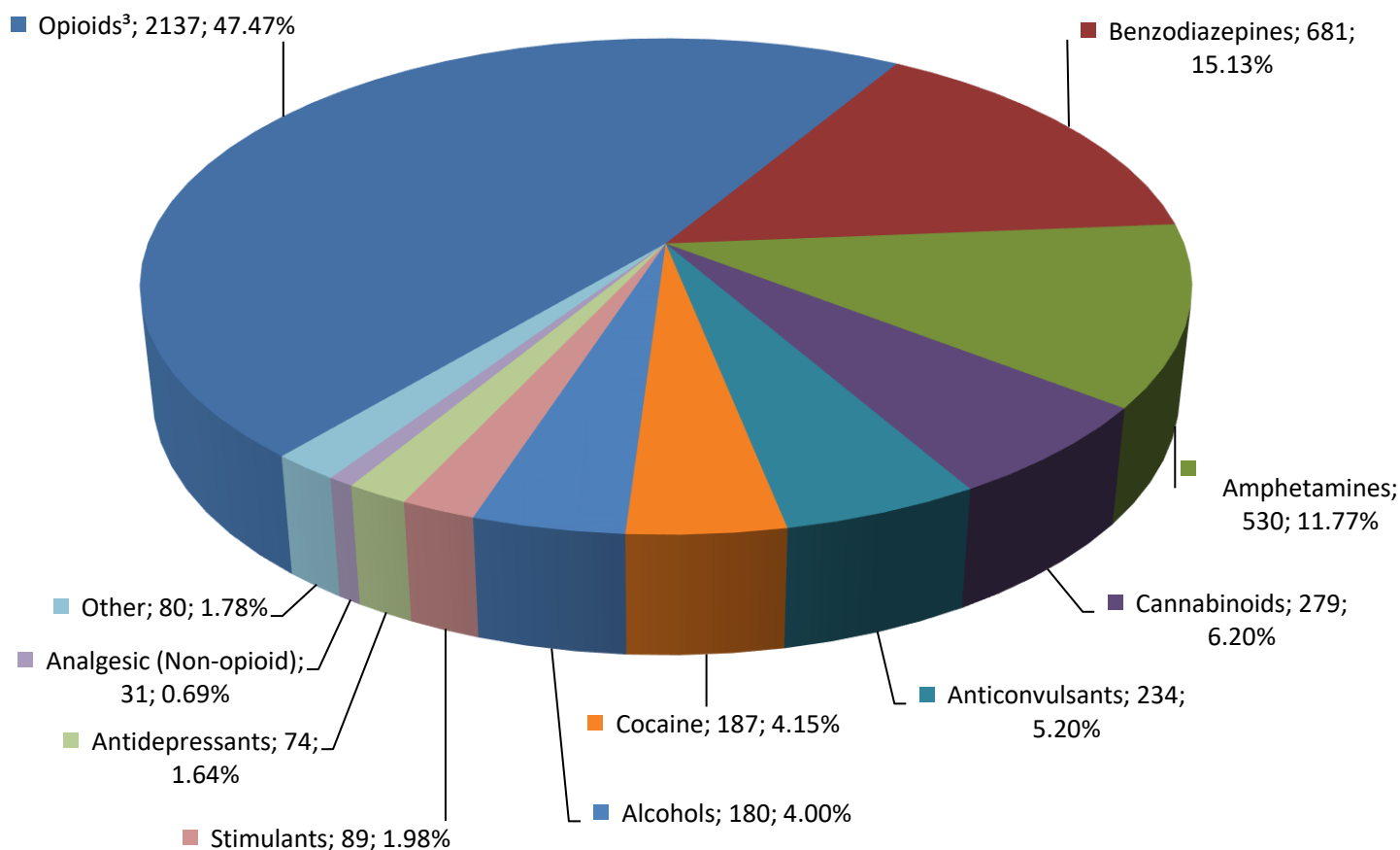
Table 14. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Methamphetamine by Demographics, 2017

Category	Total	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	188	66.43%
Female	95	33.57%
Unknown	0	0.00%
<b>Age</b>		
<17	1	0.35%
18-24	15	5.30%
25-34	108	38.16%
35-44	80	28.27%
45-54	60	21.20%
55-64	16	5.65%
65-74	3	1.06%
75-84	0	0.00%
85-94	0	0.00%
>95	0	0.00%
Unknown	0	0.00%
<b>Race</b>		
White	262	92.58%
Black	15	5.30%
Hispanic	4	1.41%
Asian	0	0.00%
Multi-Racial	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Unknown	2	0.71%

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Figure 13. Most Common Drug Classes Detected in Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases, 2017<sup>1-</sup>

2



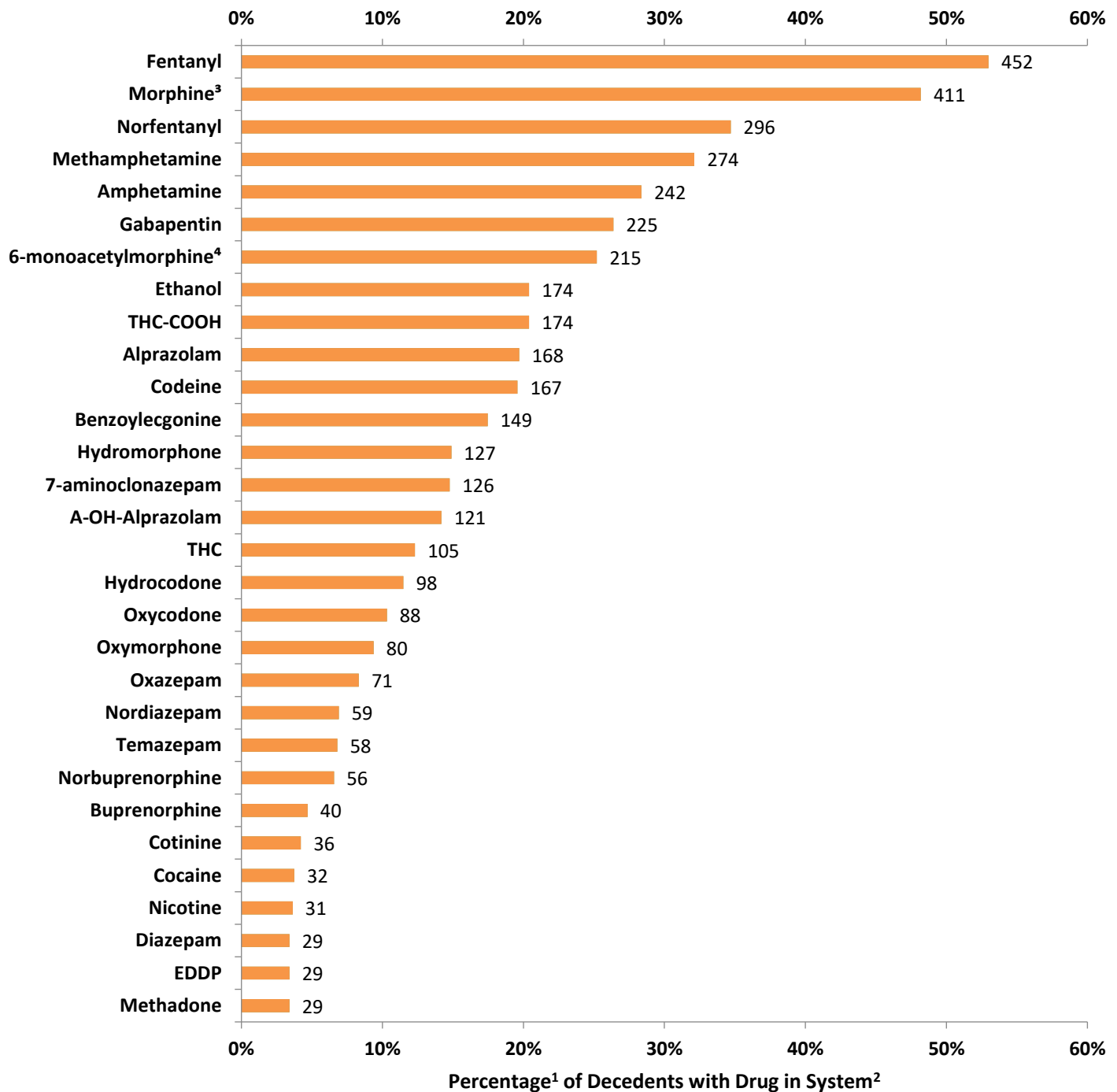
<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off of the total number of drugs identified across all statewide ME drug-related cases (n=4,502).

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

<sup>3</sup>Opioids includes all opium-like substances (including natural opiates and synthetic opioids).

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Figure 14. Most Frequent Drugs Detected in Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off the total number of statewide ME drug-related cases (n=853). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

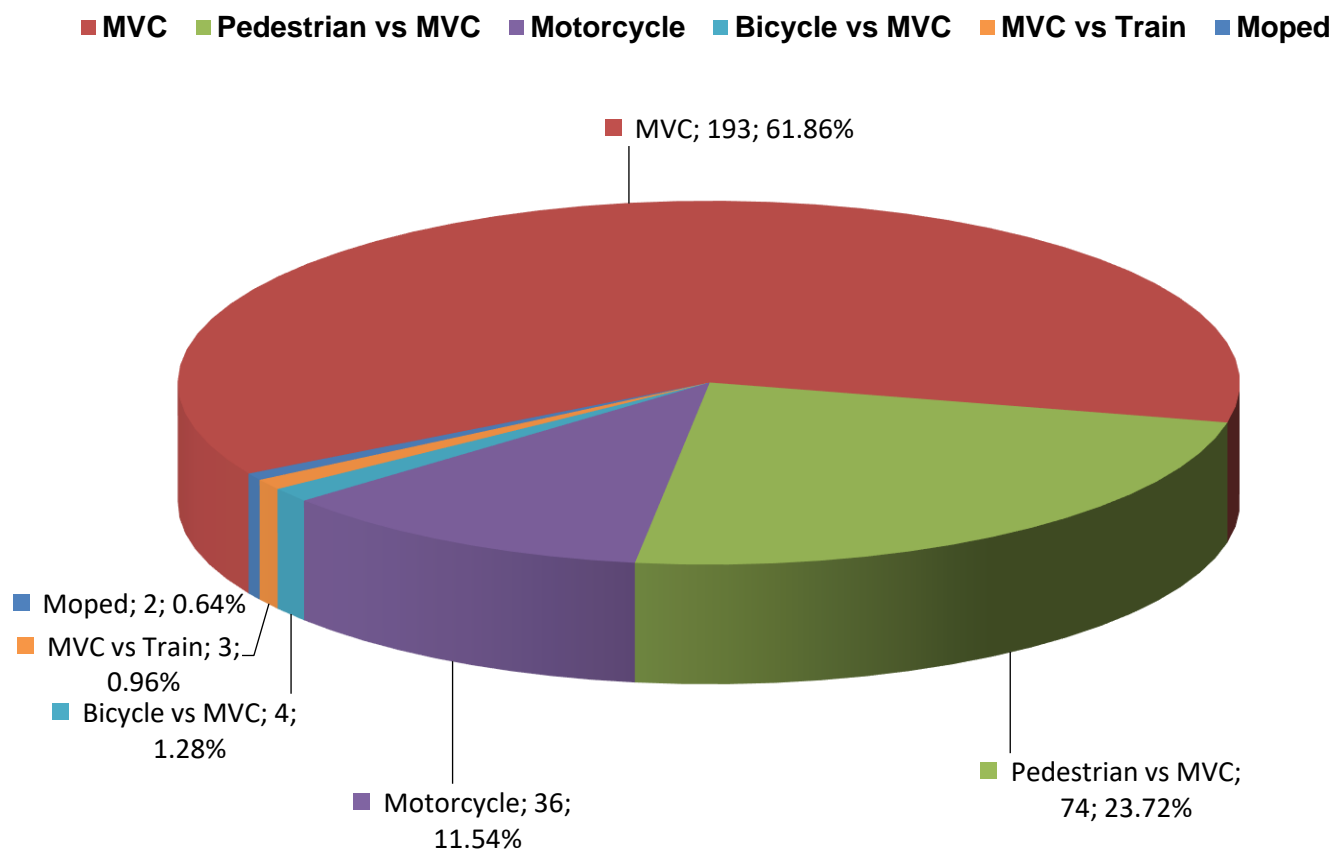
<sup>3</sup>Morphine represents true drug and/or metabolite of heroin.

<sup>4</sup>11 heroin cases do not have 6-monoacetylmorphine present in postmortem toxicology.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 15. Statewide ME Motor Vehicle Collision Cases by Type, 2017

N=312



*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*



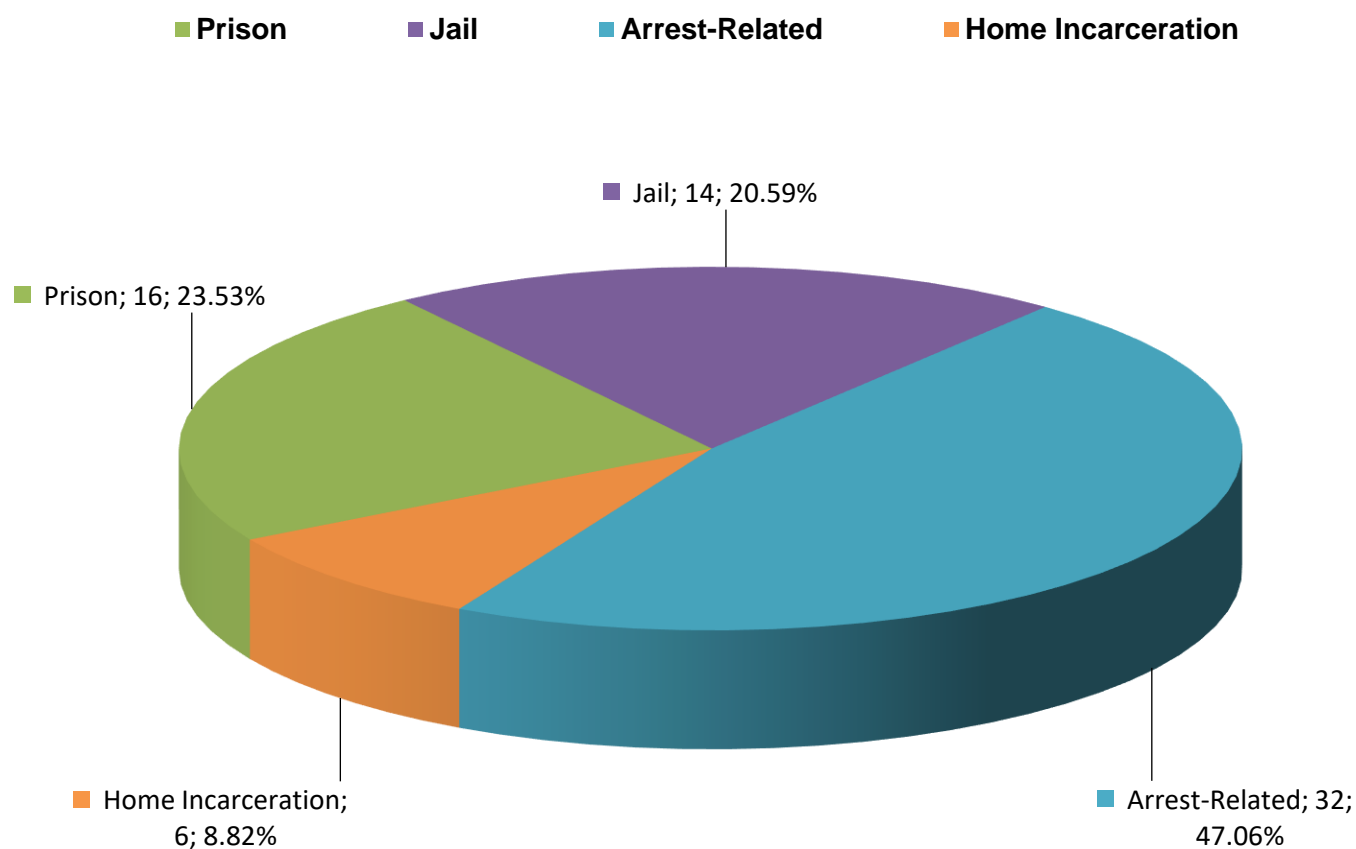
Table 15. Statewide ME Cases with Special Circumstances by Manners of Death, 2017

Fatal Event	Total	Percentage
<b>Work-Related</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0.53%</b>
Accident	13	100.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Police-Involved</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>2.75%</b>
Accident	17	25.00%
Homicide	20	29.41%
Natural	14	20.59%
Suicide	11	16.18%
Undetermined	6	8.82%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1.09%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	18	66.67%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	7	25.93%
Undetermined	2	7.41%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Child Abuse</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.45%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	11	100.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Nursing Home</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.16%</b>
Accident	2	75.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	1	25.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%

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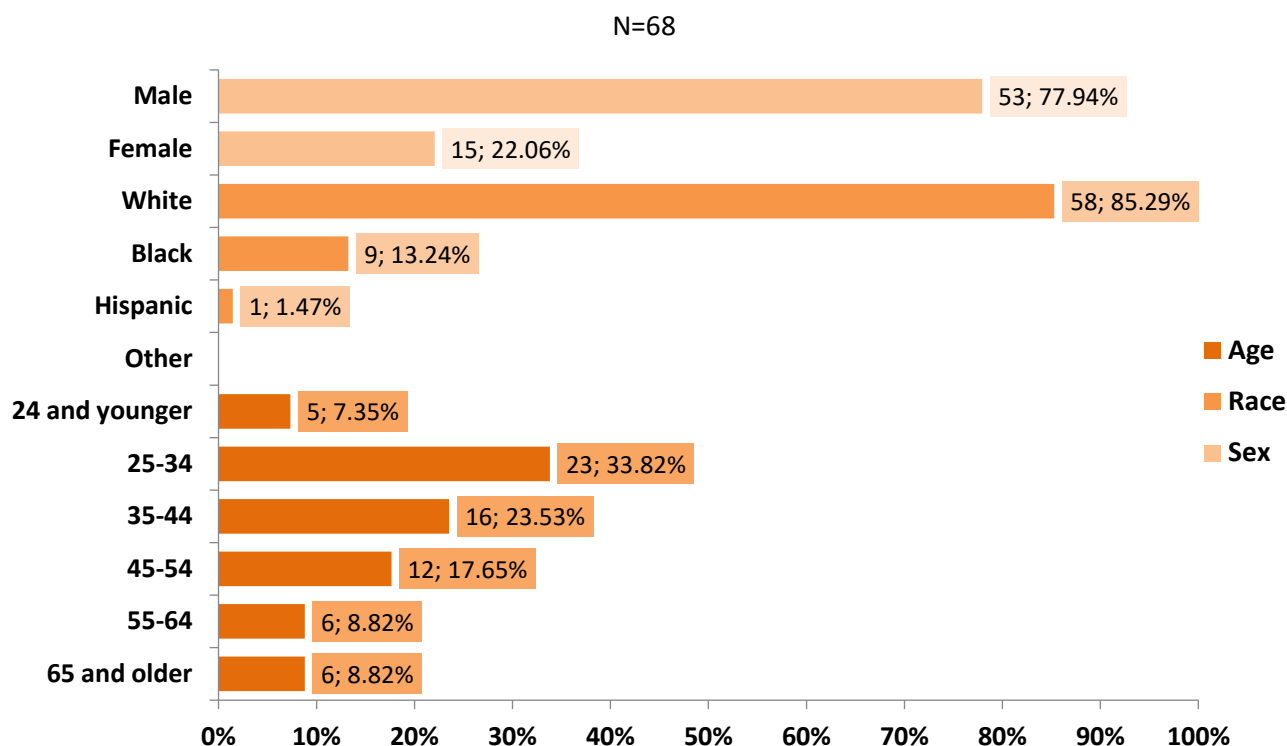
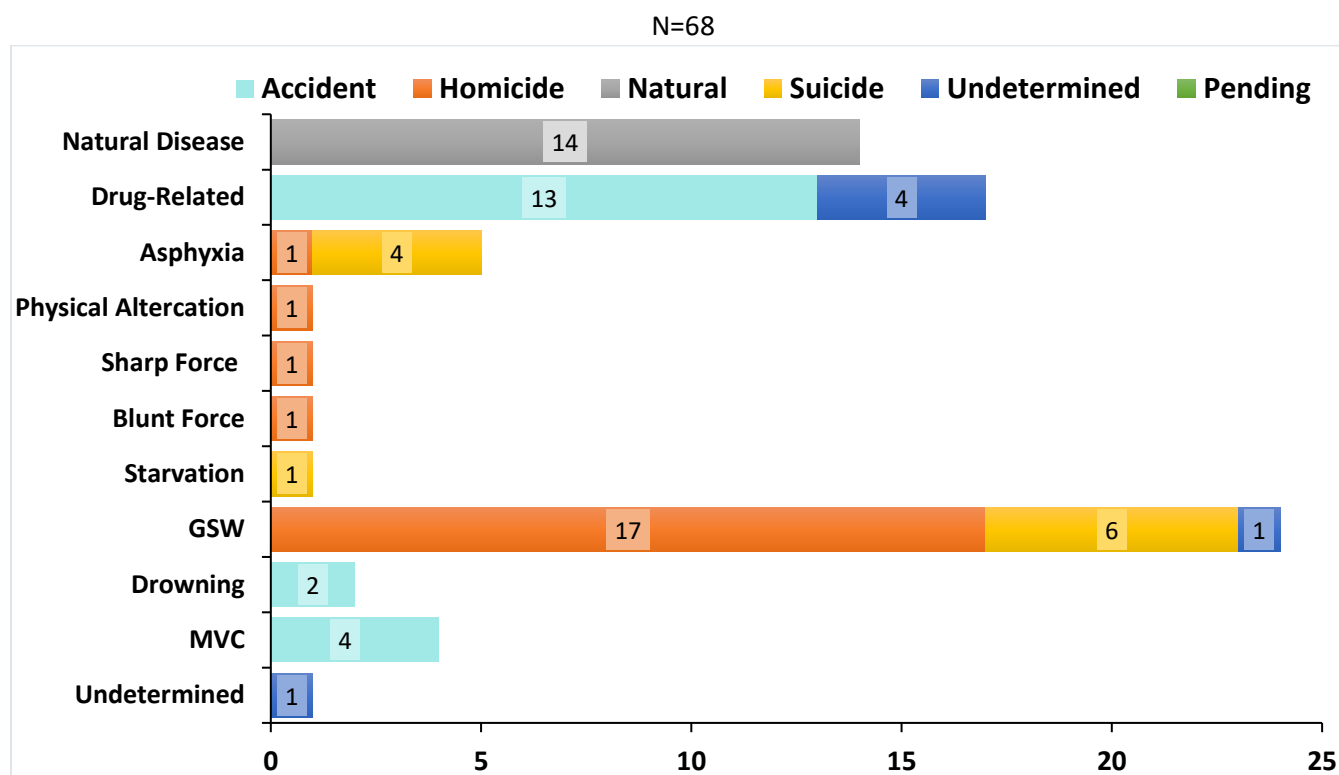
Figure 16. Statewide ME Police-Involved Cases by Type of Police Involvement, 2017

N=68



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Figure 17. Statewide ME Police-Involved Cases by Demographics, 2017

Figure 18. Statewide ME Police-Involved Cases by Cause and Manner, 2017<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Three cases had multiple cause of death types (Drowning/MVC, Drowning/Drug-Related, and Asphyxia/Blunt Force)

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 19. Statewide ME Jail Cases by Demographics, 2017

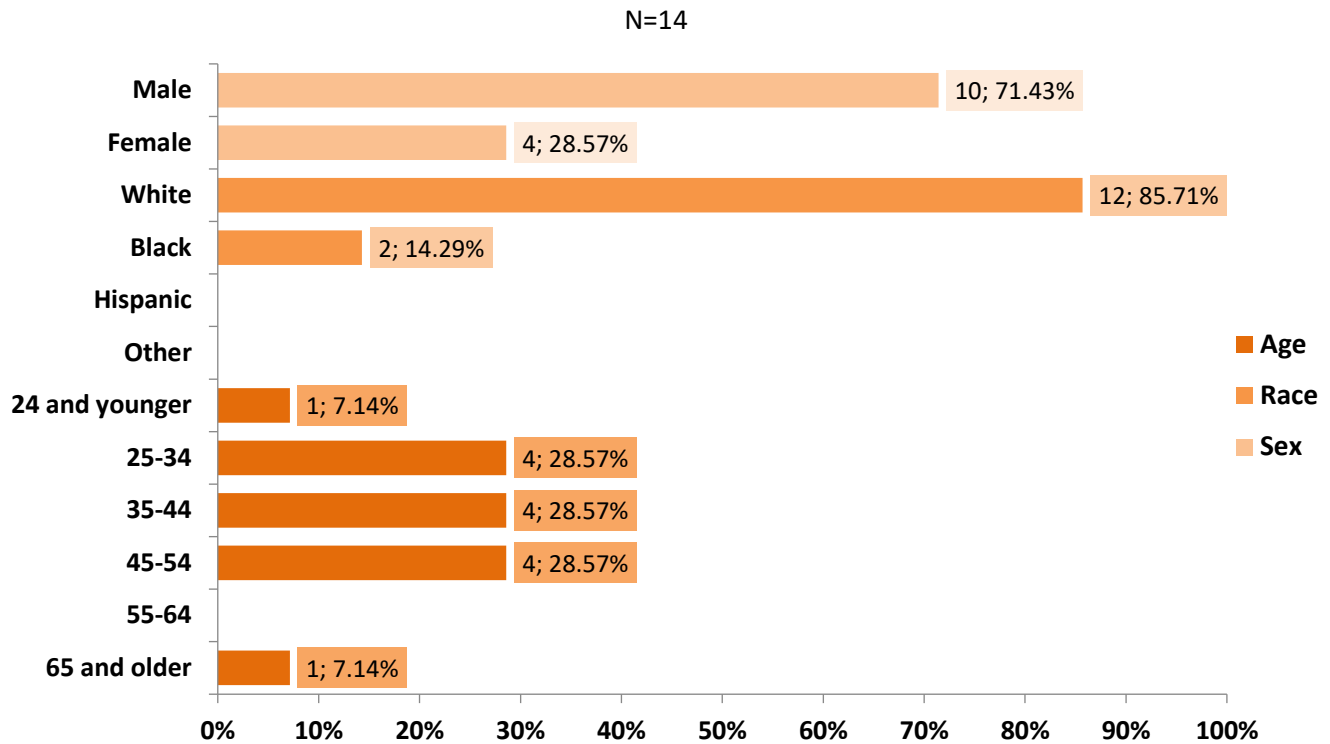
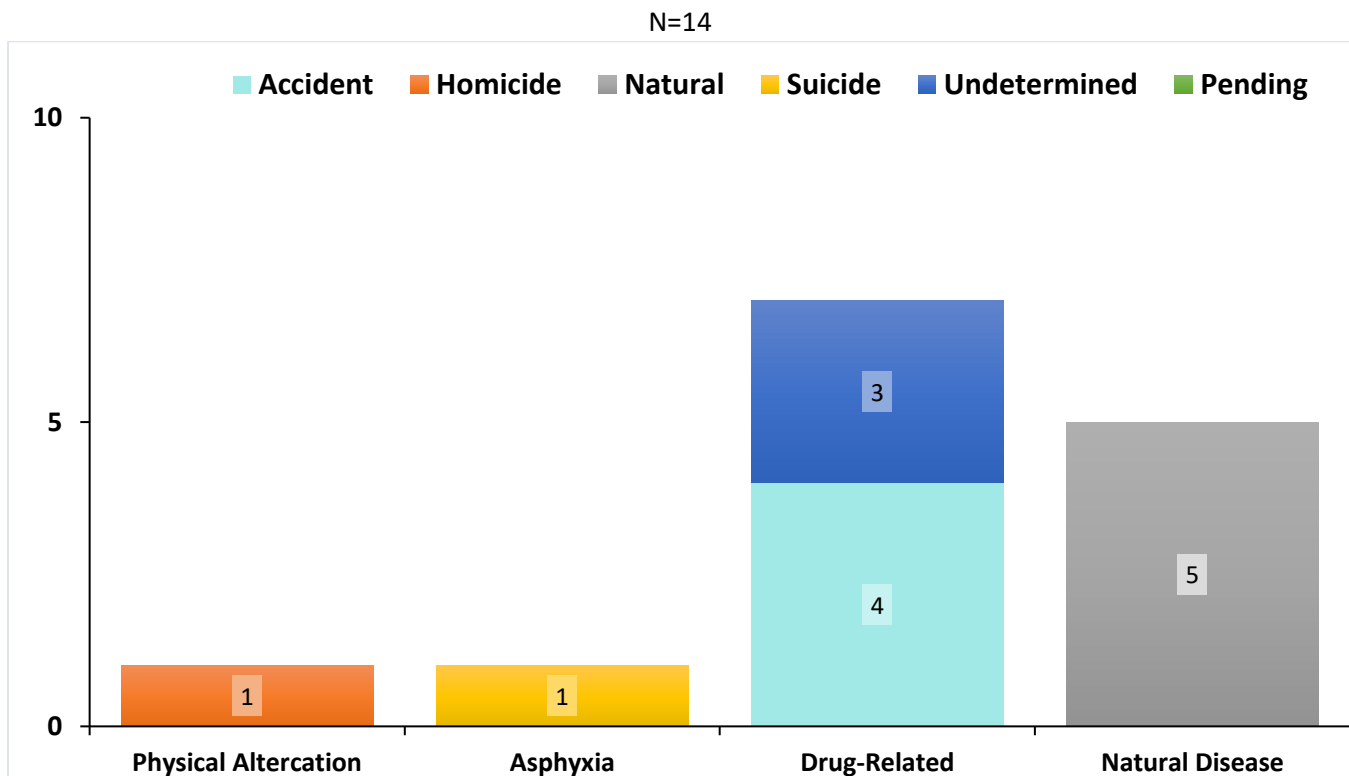
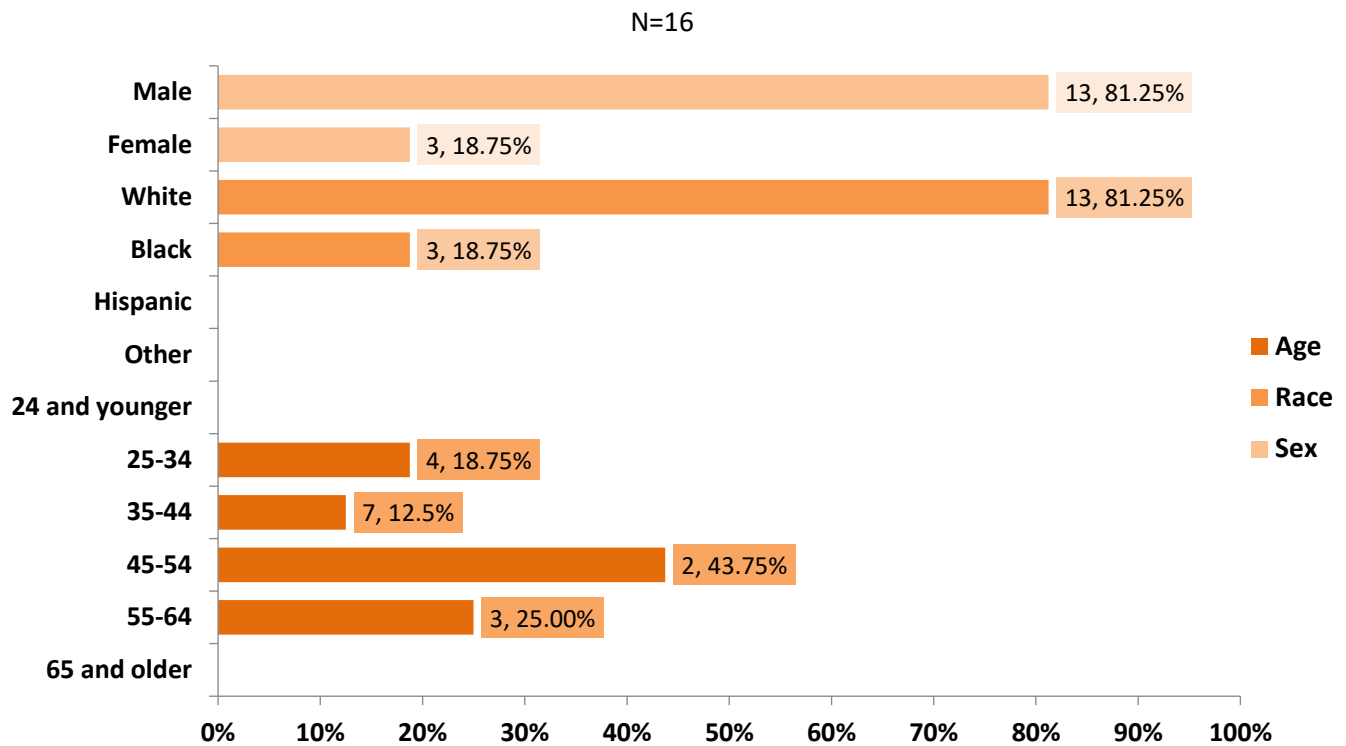
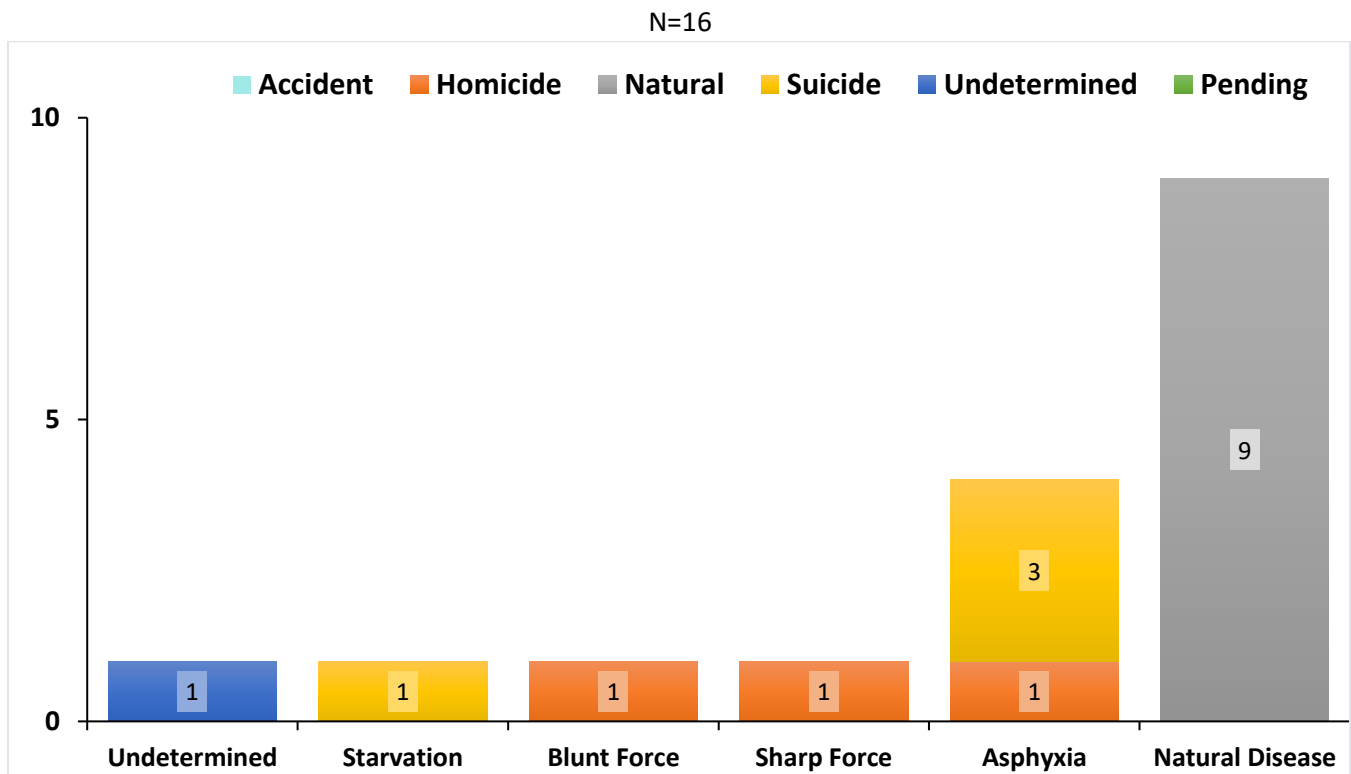


Figure 20. Statewide ME Jail Cases by Cause and Manner, 2017



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

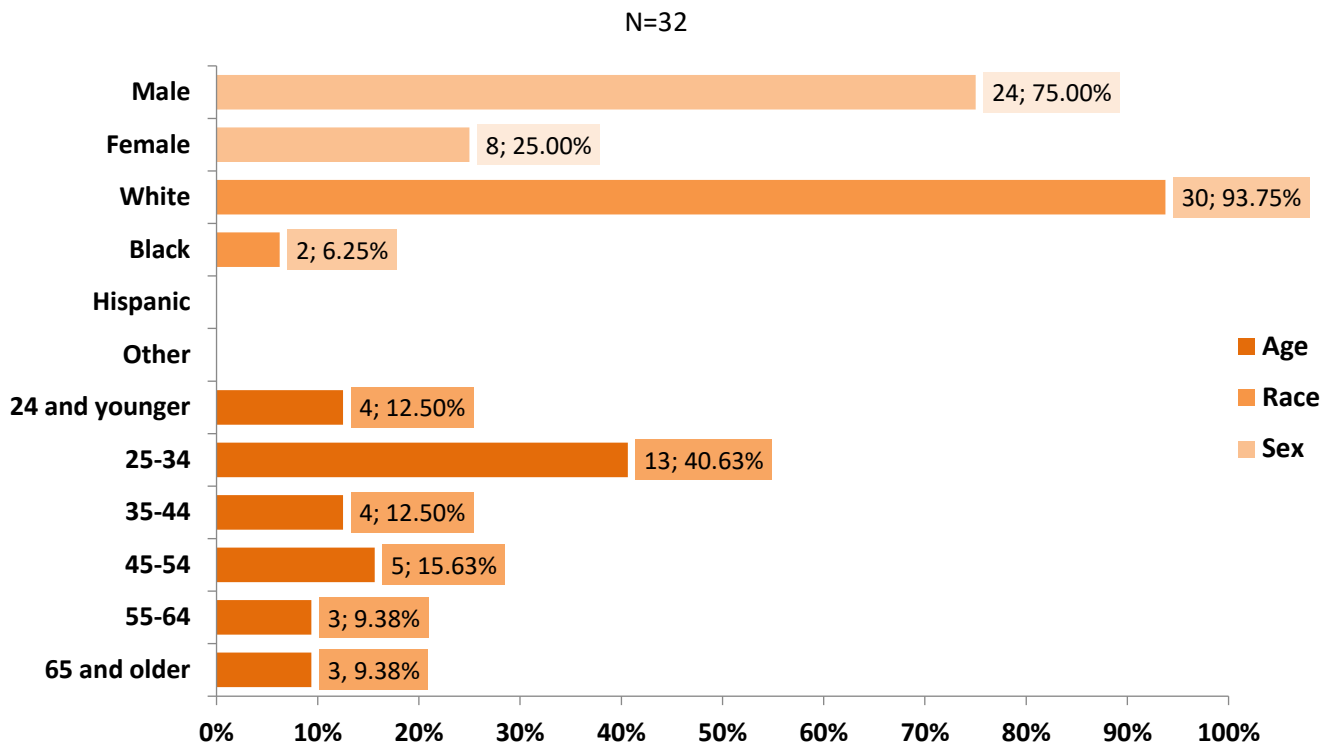
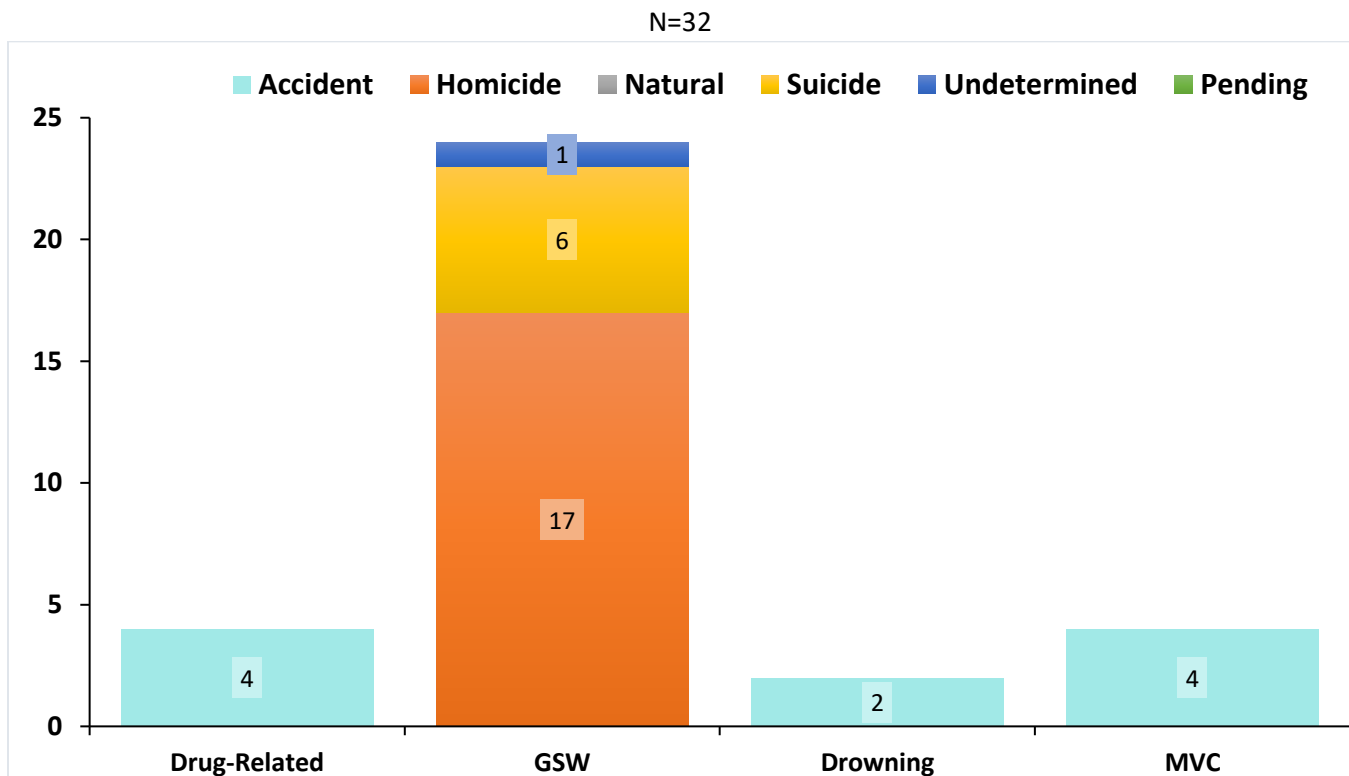
Figure 21. Statewide ME Prison Cases by Demographics, 2017

Figure 22. Statewide ME Prison Cases by Cause and Manner, 2017<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>One case had multiple cause of death types (Asphyxia/Blunt Force)

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 23. Statewide ME Arrest-Related Cases by Demographics, 2017

Figure 24. Statewide ME Arrest-Related Cases by Cause and Manner, 2017<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Two cases had multiple cause of death types (Drowning/MVC and Drowning/Drug-Related)

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 25. Statewide ME Home Incarceration Cases by Demographics, 2017

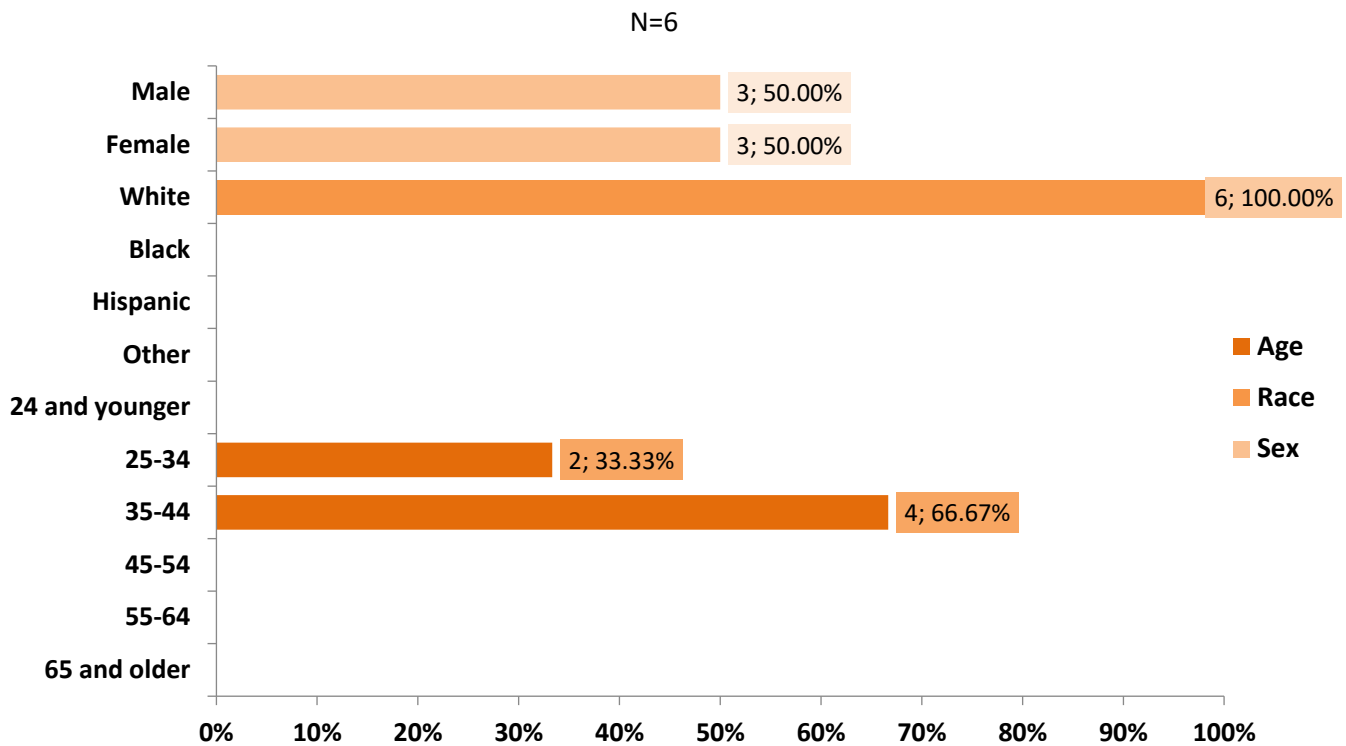
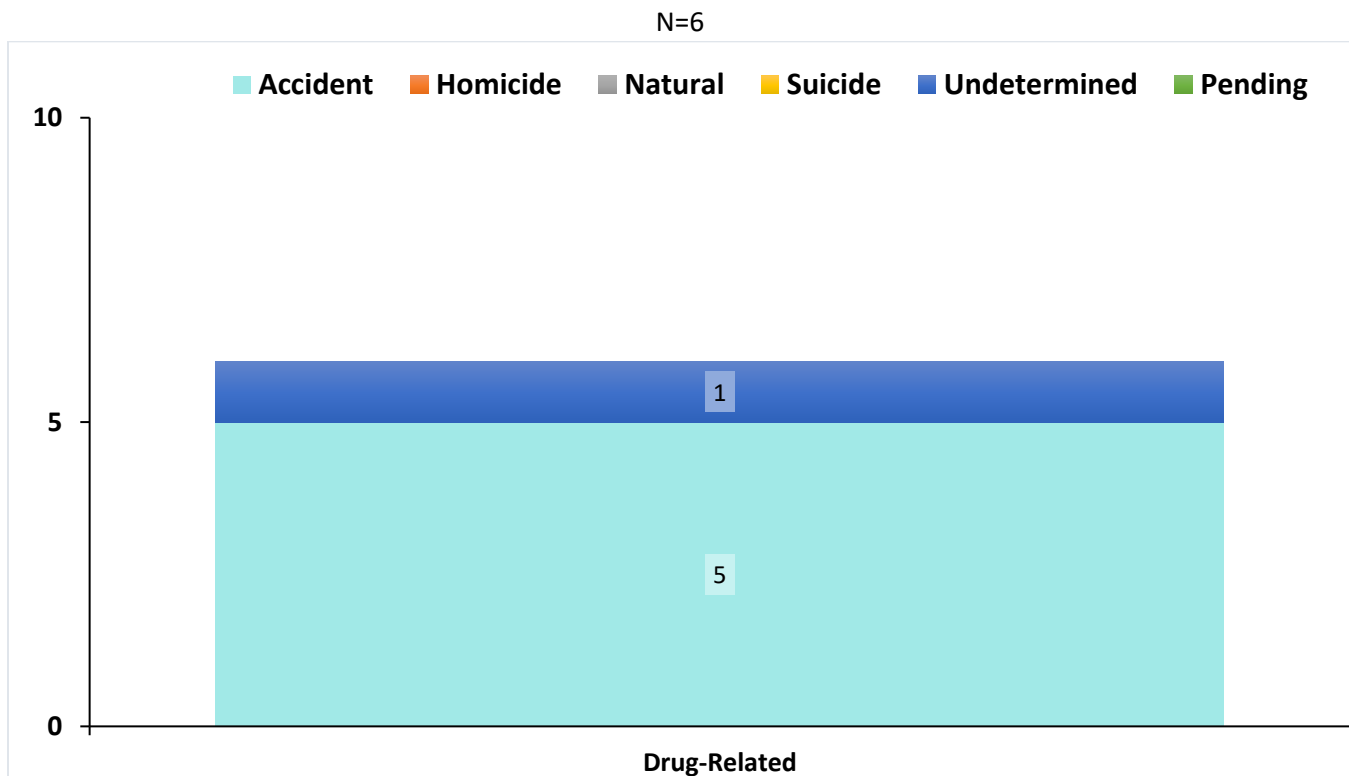


Figure 26. Statewide ME Home Incarceration Cases by Cause and Manner, 2017



*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*



# Medical Examiner Data of Children (Birth – 17 years)

Table 16. Statewide ME Child (<18) Accidents by Cause of Death, 2017

N=70

Cause of Death	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>
Positional Asphyxia	25	35.71%
Motor Vehicle Collisions	24	34.29%
Drowning	8	11.43%
Fire	5	7.14%
Pedestrian v MVC	5	7.14%
Other Motor Collisions (bicycle, ATV, aircraft, etc)	5	7.14%
Drug-Related	1	1.43%
Gunshot Wound	1	1.43%

<sup>1</sup>Percentage is calculated using the total number of child accident deaths, n=70. Percentage may be >100% as some decedents may have more than one type of injury indicated as cause of death.

Table 17. Statewide ME Child (<18) Homicides by Cause of Death, 2017

N=39

Cause of Death	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>
Gunshot Wound	19	48.72%
Blunt Force Injury	10	25.64%
Sharp Force Injury	3	7.69%
Asphyxia	2	5.13%
Fire	2	5.13%
Drowning	1	2.56%
Abandonment	1	2.56%
Undetermined <sup>2</sup>	1	2.56%

<sup>1</sup>Percentage is calculated using the total number of child homicide deaths, n=39.

<sup>2</sup>Undetermined cause of death, manner of death determined to be homicide based on circumstances.

Table 18. Statewide ME Child (<18) Suicides by Cause of Death, 2017

N=17

Cause of Death	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>
Gunshot Wound	11	64.71%
Asphyxia	4	23.53%
Drug-Related	2	11.76%

<sup>1</sup>Percentage is calculated using the total number of child suicide deaths, n=17.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Table 19. Statewide ME Child (<18) Undetermined Deaths by Cause of Death, 2017

N=72

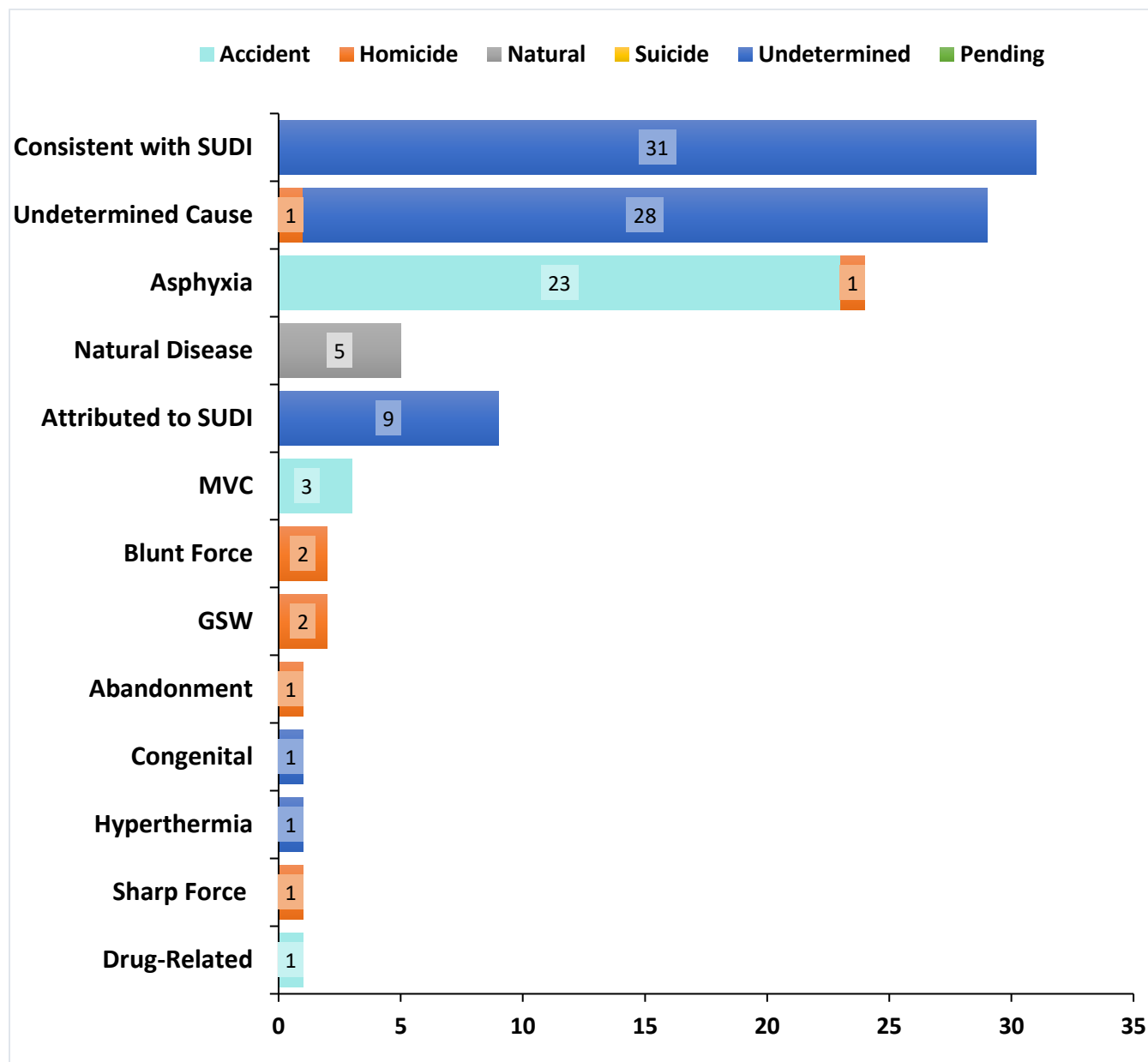
Cause of Death	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>
Undetermined	34	47.22%
Consistent with SUDI	31	43.06%
Attributed to SUDI	5	6.94%
Hyperthermia	1	1.39%
Congenital <sup>2</sup>	1	1.39%

<sup>1</sup>Percentage is calculated using the total number of child undetermined deaths, n=72.<sup>2</sup>It is unknown if other circumstances surrounding death contributed to cause of death, therefore manner is undetermined.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 27. Statewide ME Child (&lt;1 years) Cases by Causes of Death and Manner, 2017

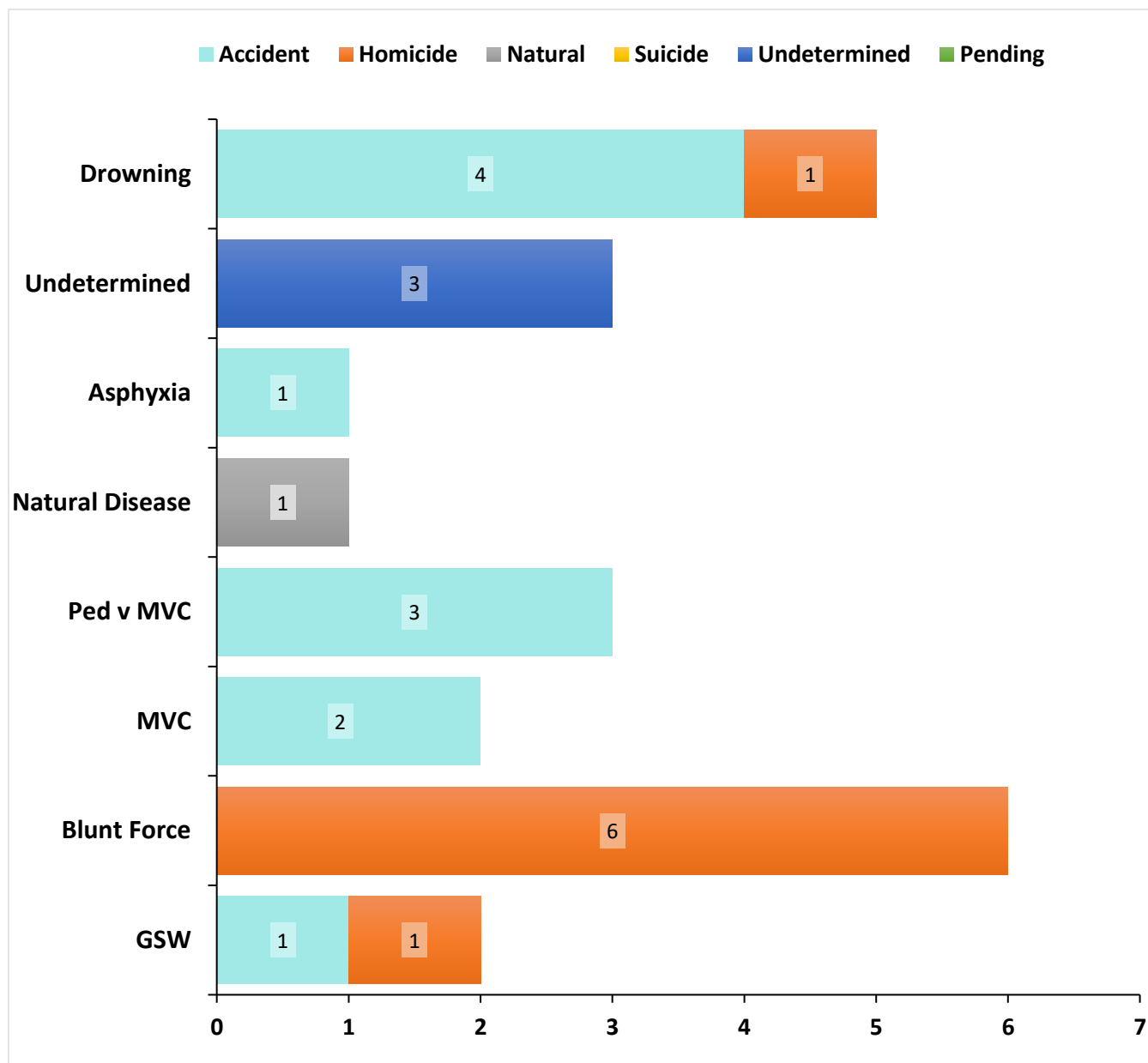
N=110



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 28. Statewide ME Child (1-5 years) Cases by Causes of Death and Manner, 2017

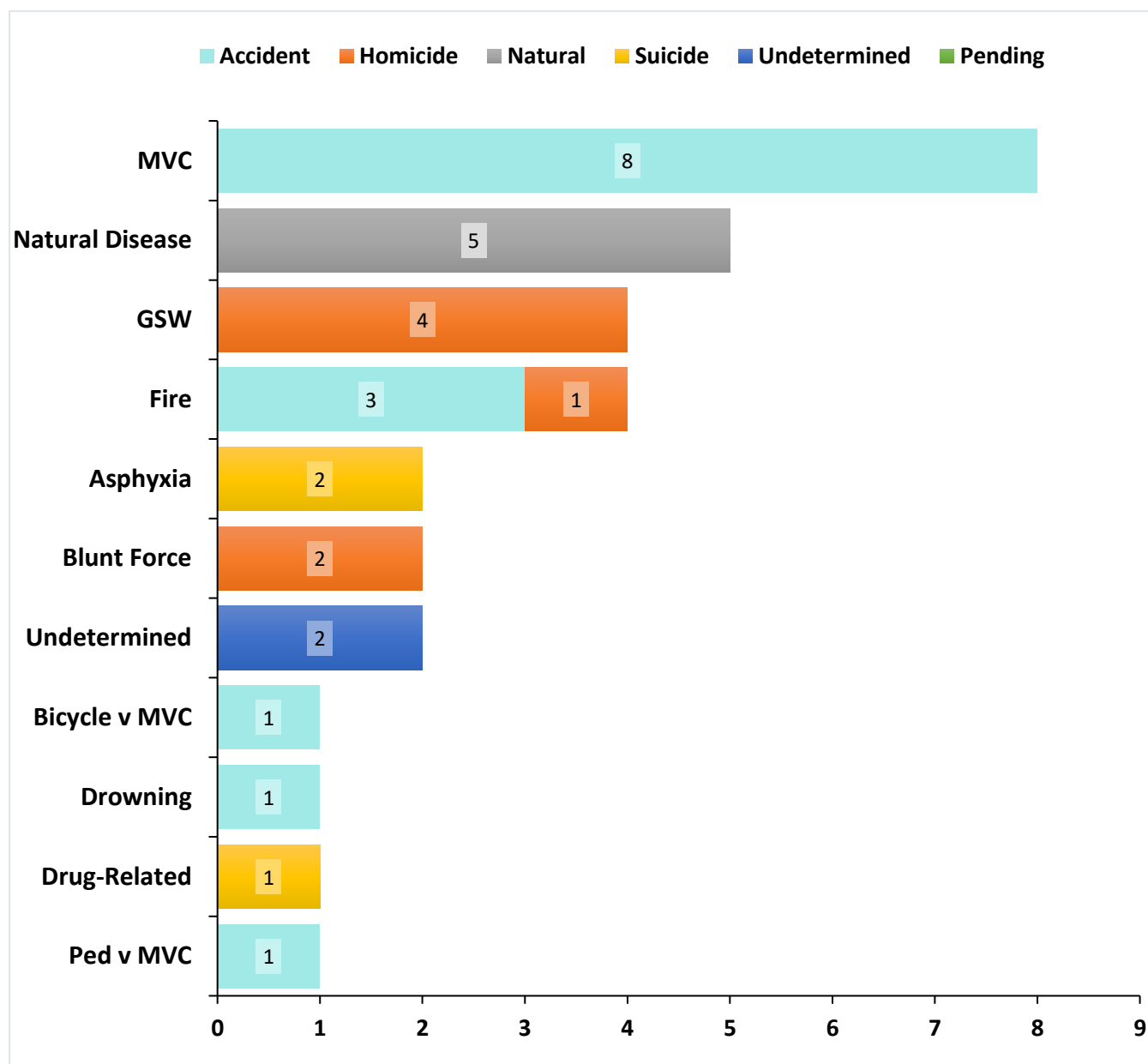
N=23



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 29. Statewide ME Child (6-12 years) Cases by Causes of Death and Manner, 2017

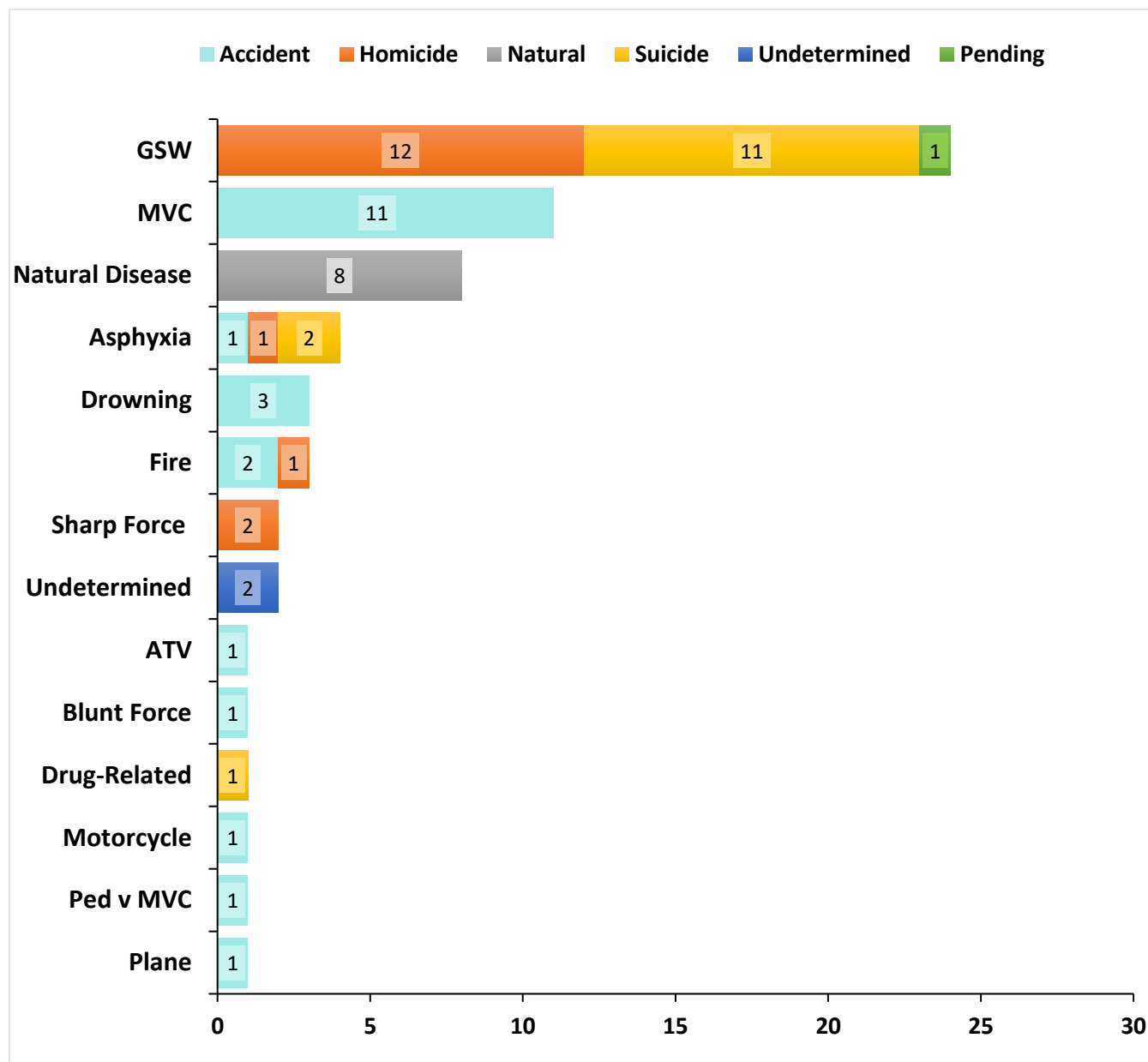
N=31



*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 30. Statewide ME Child (13-17 years) Cases by Causes of Death and Manner, 2017<sup>1</sup>

N=59



<sup>1</sup>Count may be greater than n=59, as some decedents may have more than one type of injury indicated as cause of death.

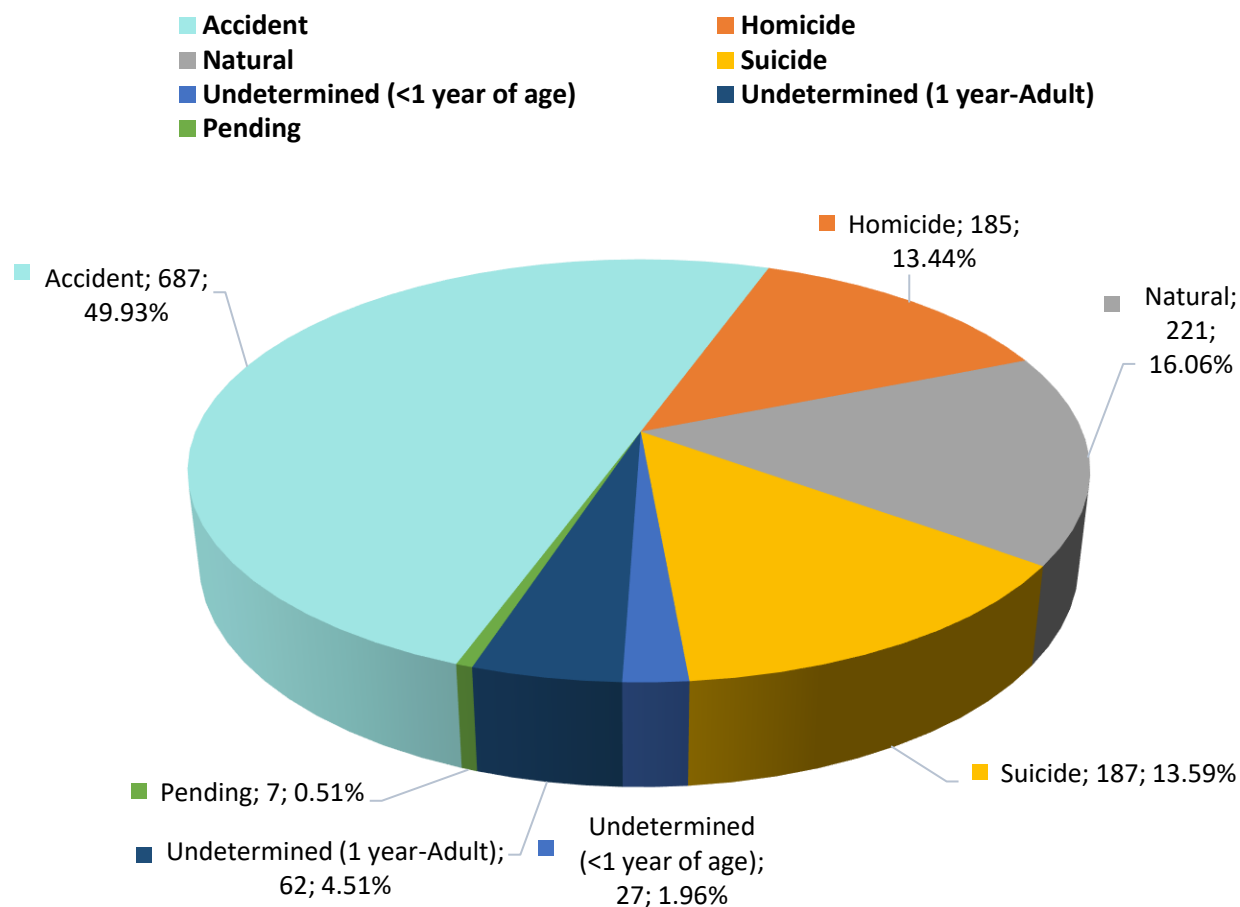
*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*



# Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Data

Figure 31. OCME Cases by Manner of Death, 2017

N=1,376



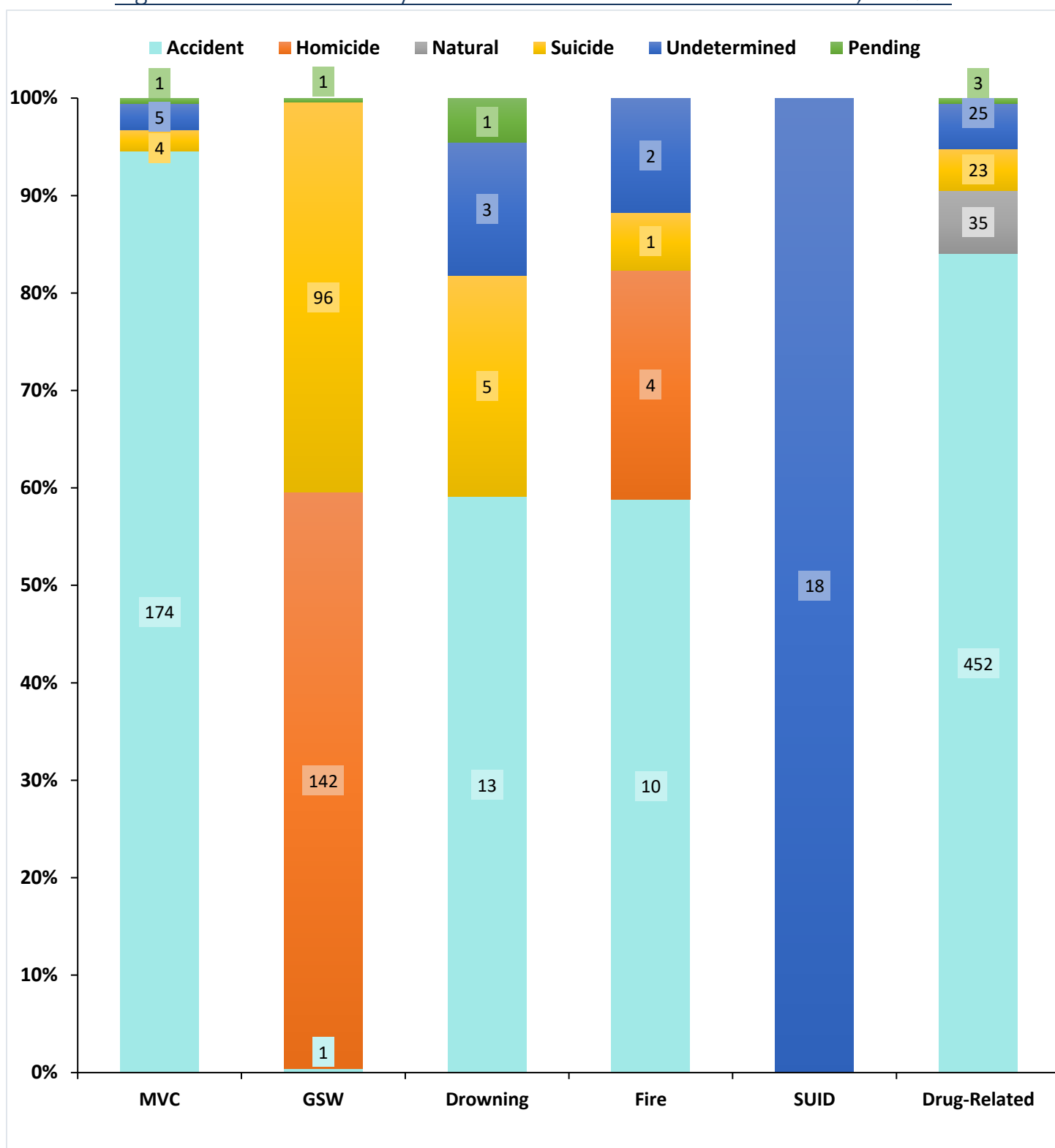
*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Table 20. OCME Cases by Common Causes of Death, 2017

<b>Cause of Death<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)	184	13.37%
Gunshot Wound (GSW)	240	17.44%
Drowning	22	1.60%
Fire	17	1.24%
SUID	18	1.31%
Drug-Related	538	39.10%
<i>...Involving Heroin</i>	168	31.23%
<i>...Involving Fentanyl</i>	311	57.81%
<i>...Involving Methamphetamine</i>	178	33.09%

<sup>1</sup>The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

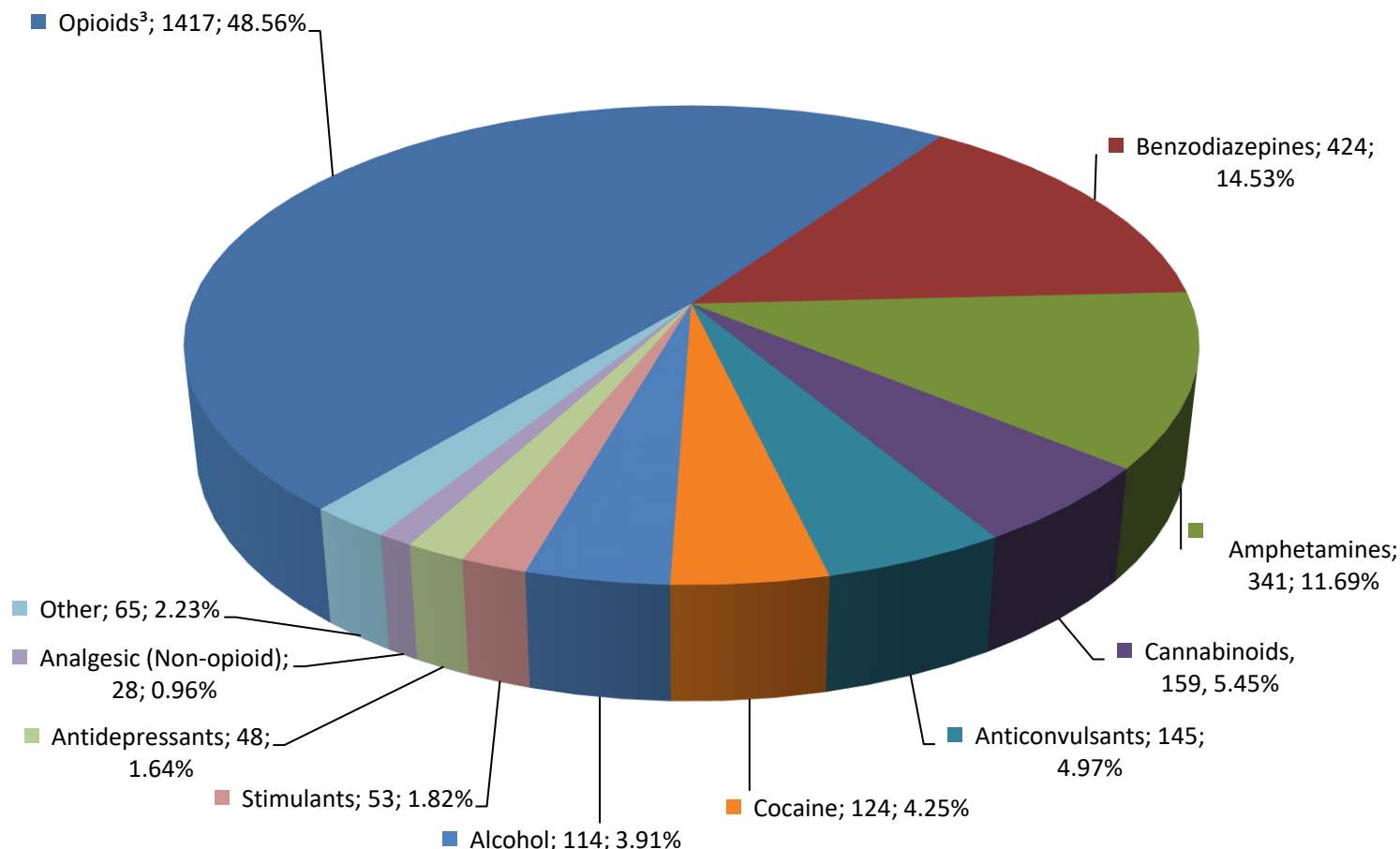
*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 32. OCME Cases by Common Causes of Death and Manner, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

<sup>2</sup>Some decedents may have more than one cause of death; therefore, those decedents may be represented multiple times in chart.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 33. Most Common Drug Classes Detected in OCME Drug-Related Cases, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>

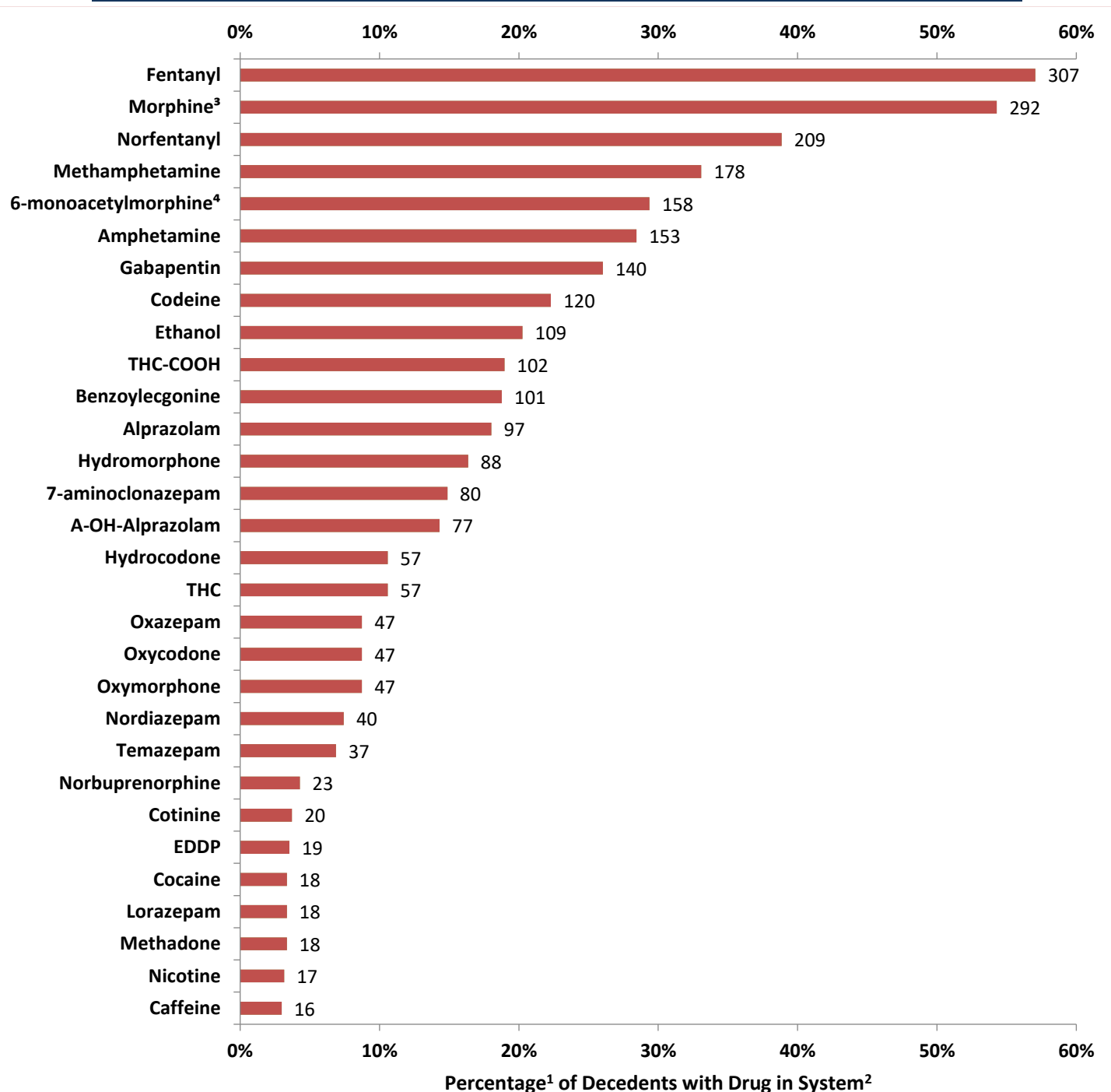
<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off of the total number of drugs identified across all OCME drug-related cases (n=2,918).

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

<sup>3</sup>Opioids includes all opium-like substances (including natural opiates and synthetic opioids).

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 34. Most Frequent Drugs Detected in OCME Drug-Related Cases, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off the total number of OCME drug-related cases (n=538). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

<sup>3</sup>Morphine represents true drug and/or metabolite of heroin.

<sup>4</sup>10 heroin cases do not have 6-monoacetylmorphine present in postmortem toxicology.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Table 21. Additional Drugs Detected in OCME Drug-Related Cases, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>

Drug Name	Total	Percentage	Drug Name	Total	Percentage
5F-ADB	1	0.19%	Ketorolac	1	0.19%
Acetaminophen	6	1.12%	Labetalol	1	0.19%
Acetone	4	0.74%	MDMA	2	0.37%
Acrylfentanyl	2	0.37%	Meprobamate	4	0.74%
Amiodarone	3	0.56%	Methoxyacetylfentanyl	1	0.19%
Amitriptyline	2	0.37%	Metoprolol	8	1.49%
Amlodipine	3	0.56%	Midazolam	2	0.37%
Baclofen	2	0.37%	Mirtazapine	1	0.19%
Brompheniramine	1	0.19%	Naloxone	7	1.30%
Buprenorphine	13	2.42%	Naproxen	1	0.19%
Bupropion	5	0.93%	Nifedipine	1	0.19%
Buspirone	2	0.37%	Nordoxepin	3	0.56%
Butalbital	1	0.19%	Norfluoxetine	3	0.56%
Carfentanil	3	0.56%	Norsertaline	3	0.56%
Chlordiazepoxide	1	0.19%	Nortramadol	4	0.74%
Chlorophenylpiperazine	3	0.56%	Nortriptyline	3	0.56%
Chlorothiazide	1	0.19%	O-Desmethylvenlafaxine	3	0.56%
Chlorpromazine	1	0.19%	Olanzapine	3	0.56%
Citalopram	6	1.12%	Paroxetine	1	0.19%
Clonazepam	12	2.23%	Phenobarbital	1	0.19%
Cocaethylene	5	0.93%	Phenytoin	2	0.37%
Cyclobenzaprine	4	0.74%	Pregabalin	1	0.19%
Dextromethorphan	1	0.19%	Promethazine	2	0.37%
Diazepam	15	2.79%	Propranolol	4	0.74%
Diphenhydramine	14	2.60%	Pseudoephedrine	6	1.12%
Doxepin	3	0.56%	Quetiapine	6	1.12%
Doxylamine	1	0.19%	Rocuronium	1	0.19%
Duloxetine	1	0.19%	Salicylates	1	0.19%
Ephedrine	2	0.37%	Sertraline	3	0.56%
Ethylene glycol	1	0.19%	Topiramate	2	0.37%
Fluoxetine	3	0.56%	Tramadol	5	0.93%
Furanylfentanyl	2	0.37%	Trazodone	2	0.37%
Hydrochlorothiazide	1	0.19%	U47700	2	0.37%
Hydroxyzine	2	0.37%	Venlafaxine	3	0.56%
Ibuprofen	1	0.19%	Warfarin	1	0.19%
Ketamine	1	0.19%	Zolpidem	3	0.56%

<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off the total number of OCME drug-related cases (n=538). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*



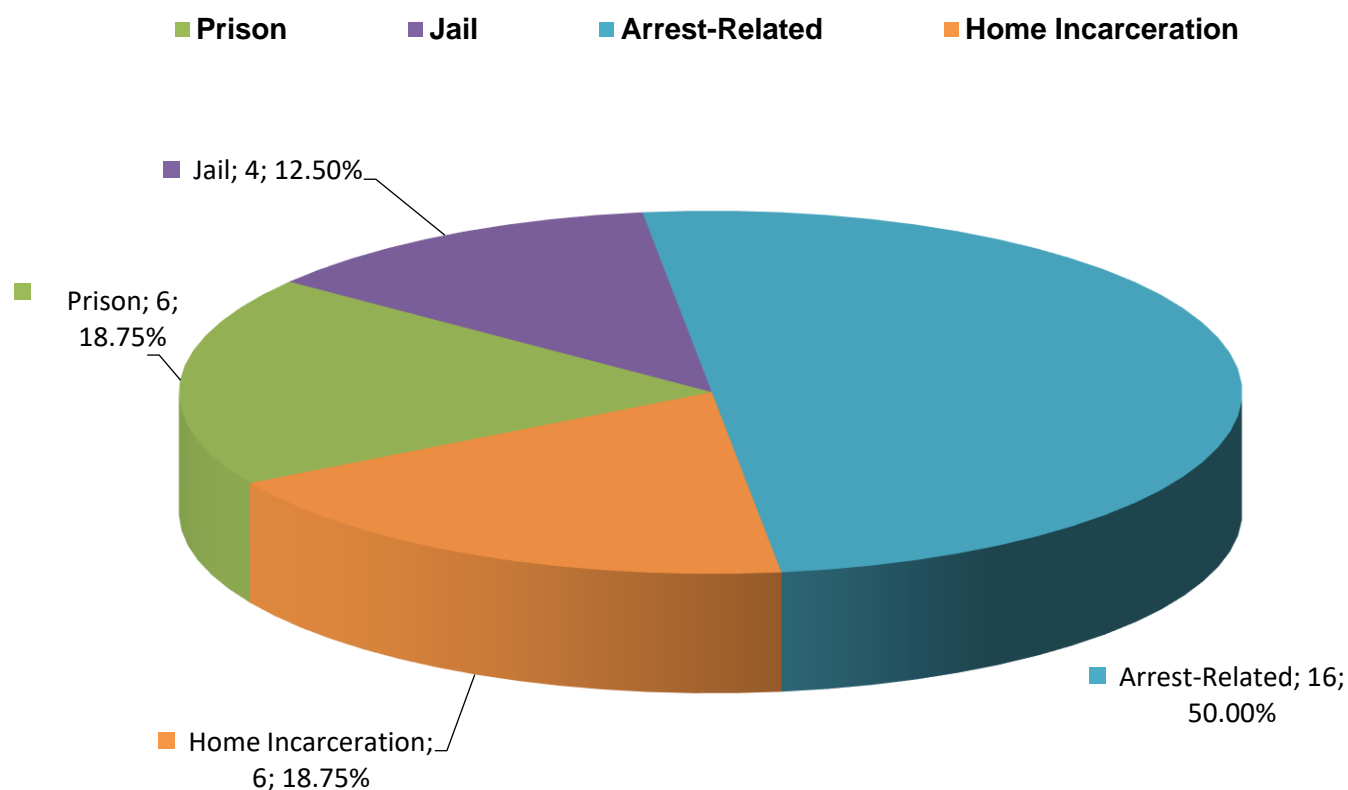
Table 22. OCME Cases with Special Circumstances by Manners of Death, 2017

Fatal Event	Total	Percentage
<b>Work-Related</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.44%</b>
Accident	6	100.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Police-Involved</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2.33%</b>
Accident	10	31.25%
Homicide	6	18.75%
Natural	4	12.50%
Suicide	8	25.00%
Undetermined	4	12.50%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1.09%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	10	66.67%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	5	33.33%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Child Abuse</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.51%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	7	100.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Nursing Home</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.15%</b>
Accident	1	50.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	1	50.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 35. OCME Police-Involved Cases by Type of Police Involvement, 2017

N=32

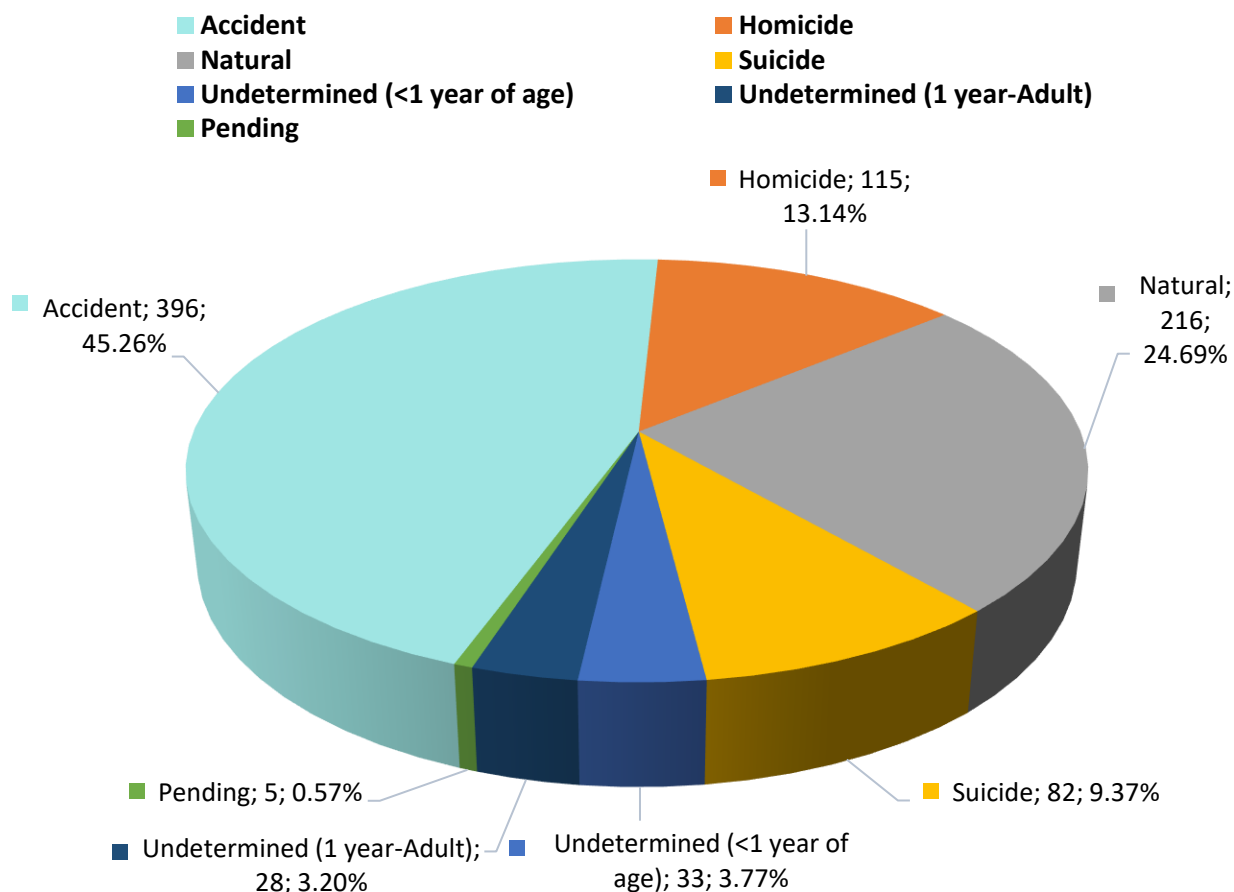


*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

# Eastern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner Data

Figure 36. EKME Cases by Manner of Death, 2017

N=875



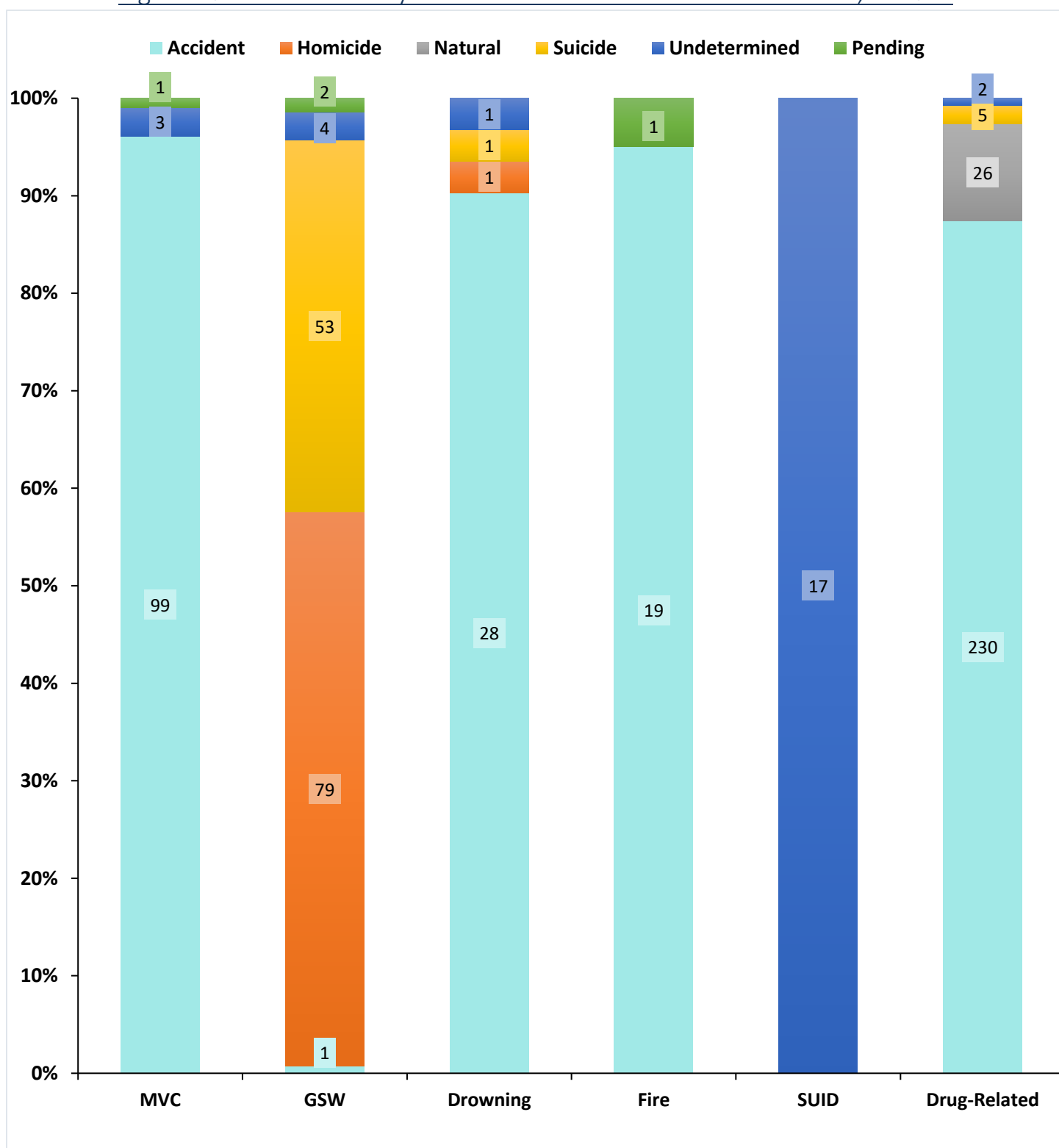
*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Table 23. EKME Cases by Common Causes of Death, 2017

<b>Cause of Death<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)	103	11.77%
Gunshot Wound (GSW)	139	15.89%
Drowning	31	3.54%
Fire	20	2.29%
SUID	17	1.94%
Drug-Related	263	30.06%
<i>...Involving Heroin</i>	50	31.94%
<i>...Involving Fentanyl</i>	134	50.95%
<i>...Involving Methamphetamine</i>	80	30.42%

<sup>1</sup>The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

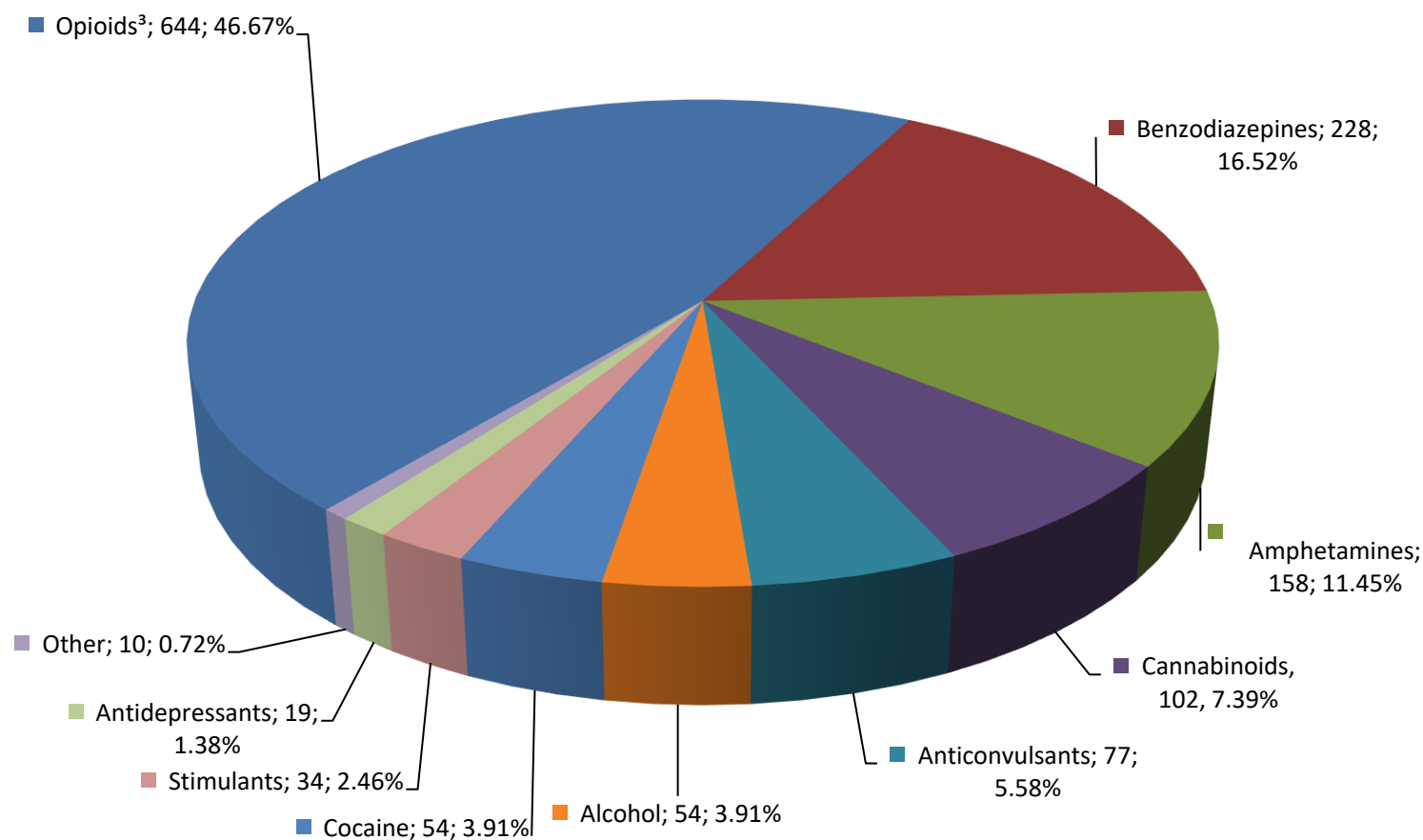
*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 37. EKME Cases by Common Causes of Death and Manner, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

<sup>2</sup>Some decedents may have more than one cause of death; therefore, those decedents may be represented multiple times in chart.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 38. Most Common Drug Classes Detected in EKME Drug-Related Cases, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>

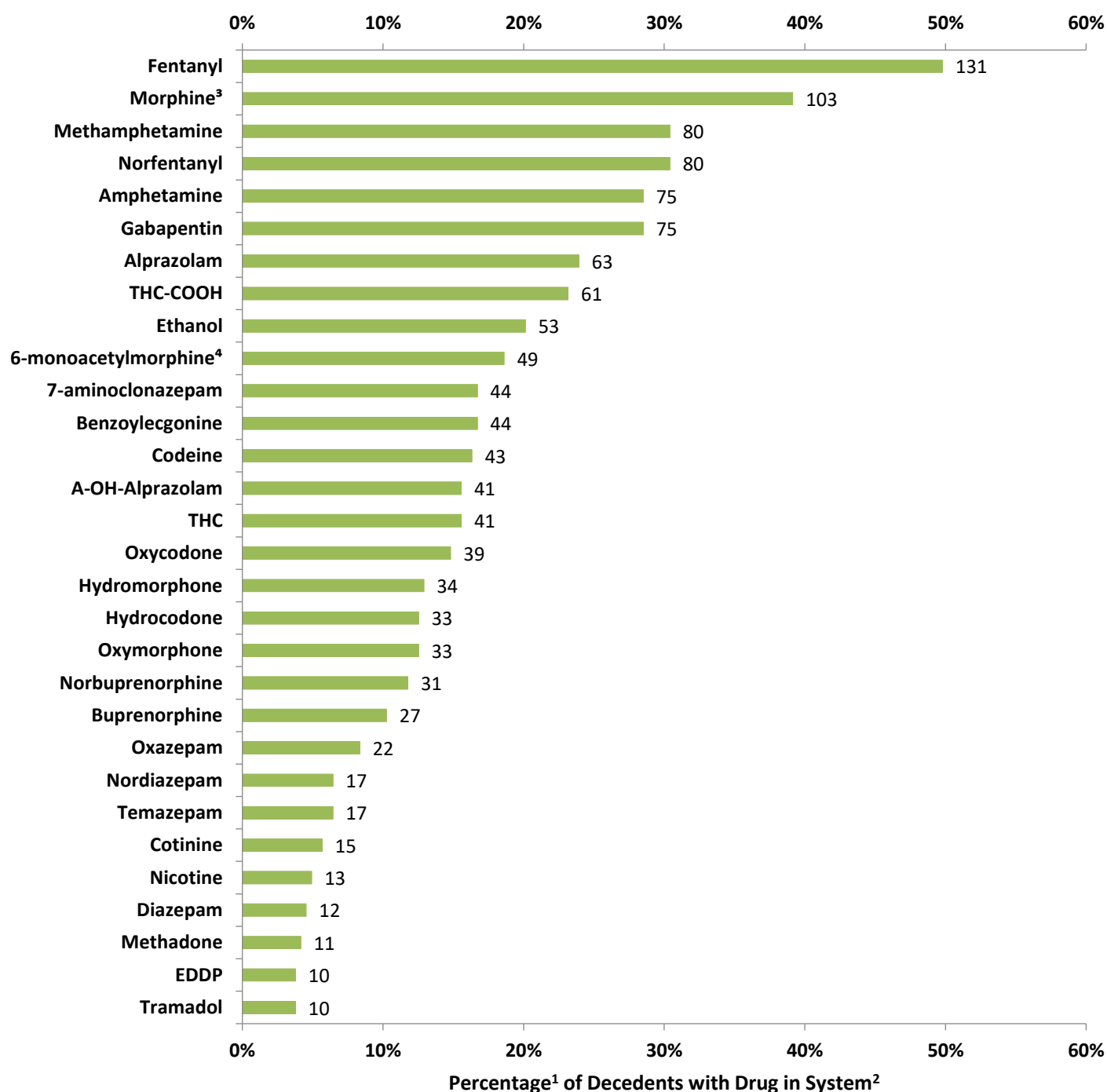
<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off of the total number of drugs identified across all EKME drug-related cases (n=1,380).

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

<sup>3</sup>Opioids includes all opium-like substances (including natural opiates and synthetic opioids).

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 39. Most Frequent Drugs Detected in EKME Drug-Related Cases, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off the total number of EKME drug-related cases (n=263). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

<sup>3</sup>Morphine represents true drug and/or metabolite of heroin.

<sup>4</sup>1 heroin case does not have 6-monoacetylmorphine present in postmortem toxicology.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*



Table 24. Additional Drugs Detected in EKME Drug-Related Cases, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>

Drug Name	Total	Percentage
1,1-difluorethane	1	0.38%
Acetone	1	0.38%
Amitriptyline	1	0.38%
Bupropion	2	0.76%
Caffeine	6	2.28%
Carfentanil	3	1.14%
Chlordiazepoxide	1	0.38%
Chlorophenylpiperazine	1	0.38%
Citalopram	6	2.28%
Clonazepam	7	2.66%
Cocaethylene	1	0.38%
Cocaine	9	3.42%
Cyclobenzaprine	1	0.38%
Demoxepam	1	0.38%
Diphenhydramine	2	0.76%
Duloxetine	1	0.38%
Fluoxetine	1	0.38%
Lamotrigine	1	0.38%
Levofloxacin	1	0.38%
Lidocaine	1	0.38%
Lorazepam	3	1.14%
MDMA	1	0.38%
Metoprolol	1	0.38%
Naloxone	1	0.38%
Norfluoxetine	3	1.14%
Nortramadol	7	2.66%
Nortriptyline	1	0.38%
O-Desmethylvenlafaxine	1	0.38%
Olanzapine	1	0.38%
Pregabalin	1	0.38%
Promethazine	1	0.38%
Pseudoephedrine	2	0.76%
Trazodone	1	0.38%
Venlafaxine	1	0.38%

<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off the total number of EKME drug-related cases (n=263). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

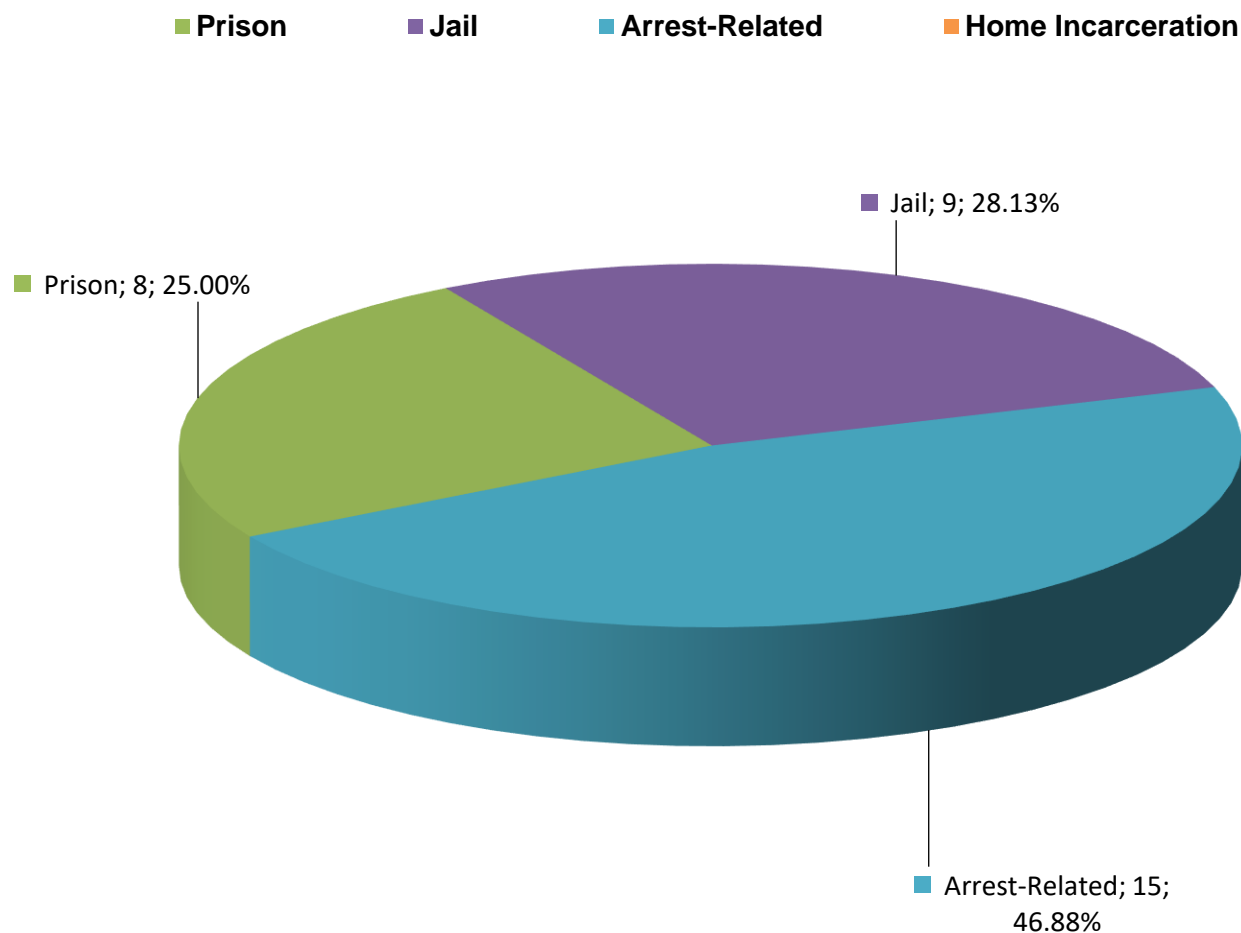
Table 25. EKME Cases with Special Circumstances by Manners of Death, 2017

Fatal Event	Total	Percentage
<b>Work-Related</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.80%</b>
Accident	7	100.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Police-Involved</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3.66%</b>
Accident	6	18.75%
Homicide	12	37.50%
Natural	10	31.25%
Suicide	2	6.25%
Undetermined	2	6.25%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.46%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	3	75.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	1	25.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Child Abuse</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.34%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	3	100.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Nursing Home</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.23%</b>
Accident	2	100.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 40. EKME Police-Involved Cases by Type of Police Involvement, 2017

N=32

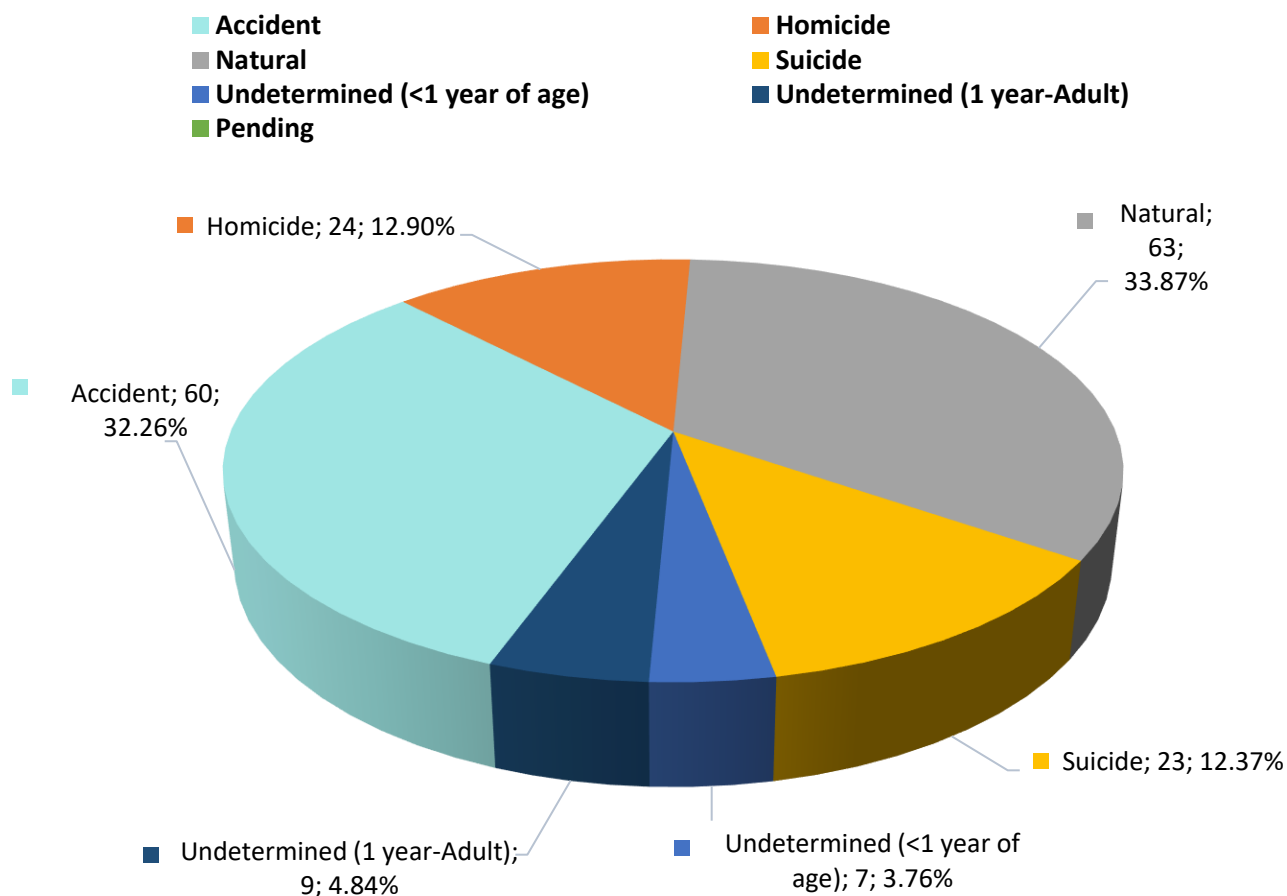


*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

# Western Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner Data

Figure 41. WKME Cases by Manner of Death, 2017

N=186



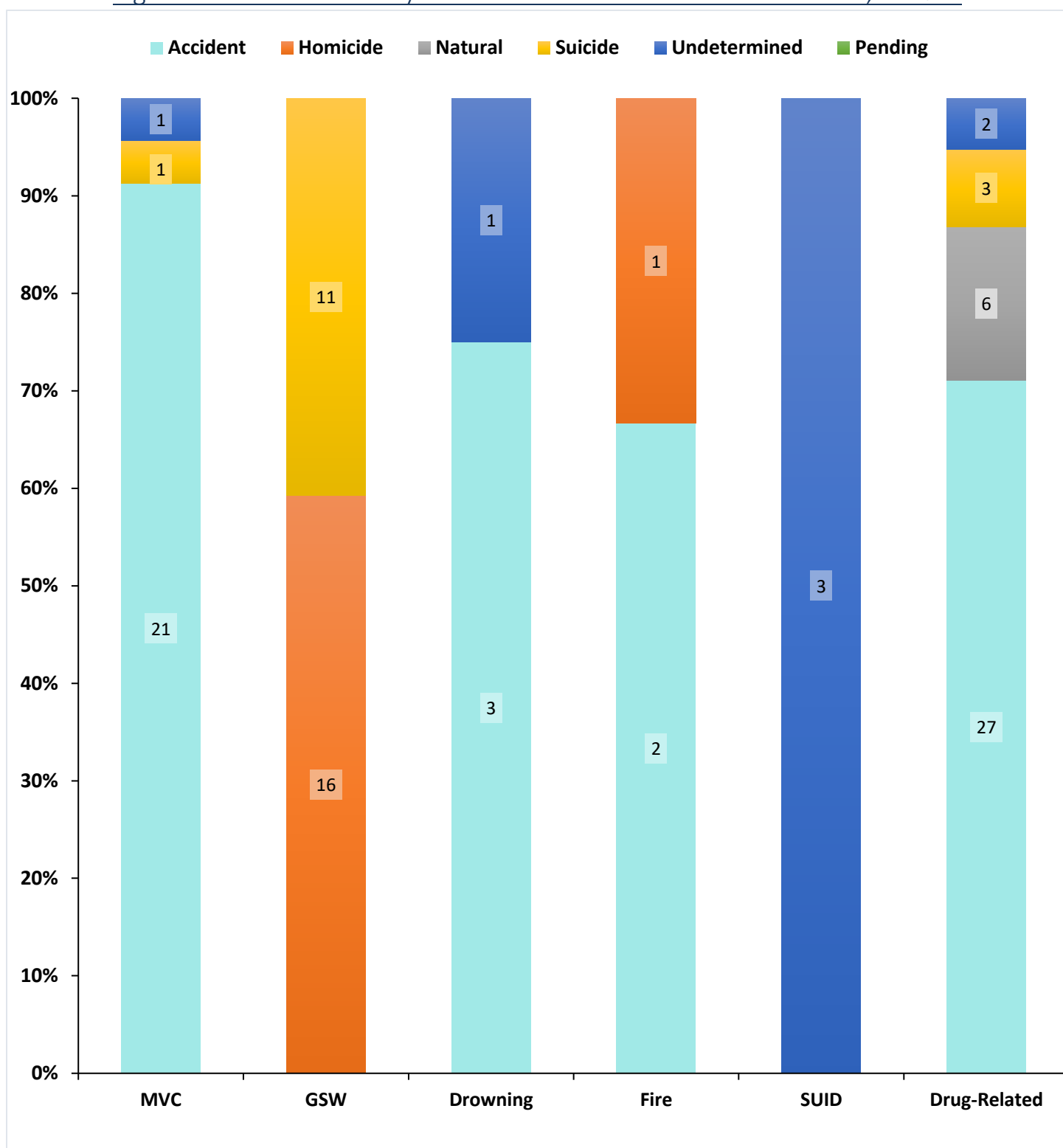
*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Table 26. WKME Cases by Common Causes of Death, 2017

<b>Cause of Death<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)	23	12.37%
Gunshot Wound (GSW)	27	14.52%
Drowning	4	2.15%
Fire	3	1.61%
SUID	3	1.61%
Drug-Related	38	20.43%
<i>...Involving Heroin</i>	2	5.26%
<i>...Involving Fentanyl</i>	4	10.53%
<i>...Involving Methamphetamine</i>	13	39.47%

<sup>1</sup>The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

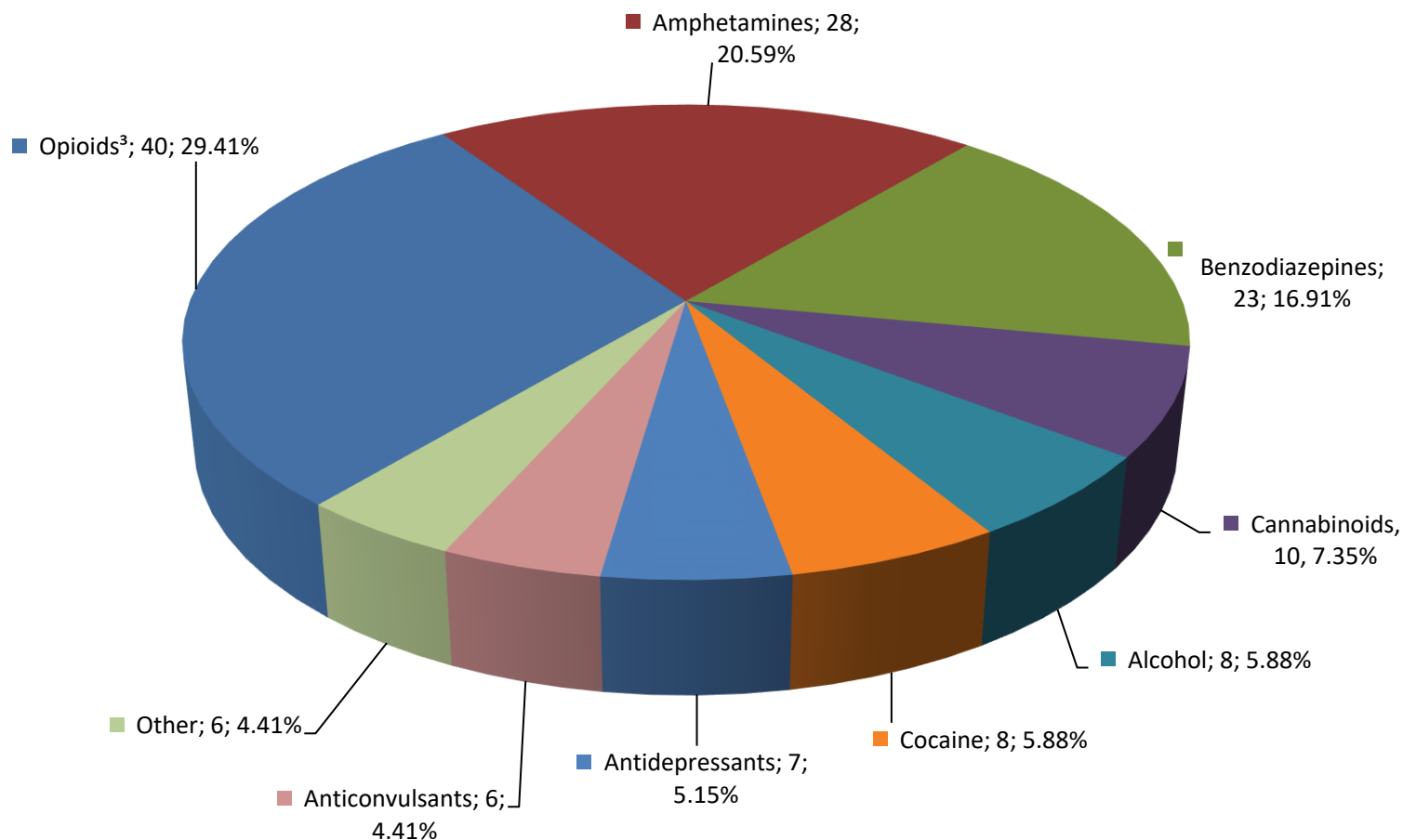
*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 42. WKME Cases by Common Causes of Death and Manner, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

<sup>2</sup>Some decedents may have more than one cause of death; therefore, those decedents may be represented multiple times in chart.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 43. Most Common Drug Classes Detected in WKME Drug-Related Cases, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off of the total number of drugs identified across all WKME drug-related cases (n=136).

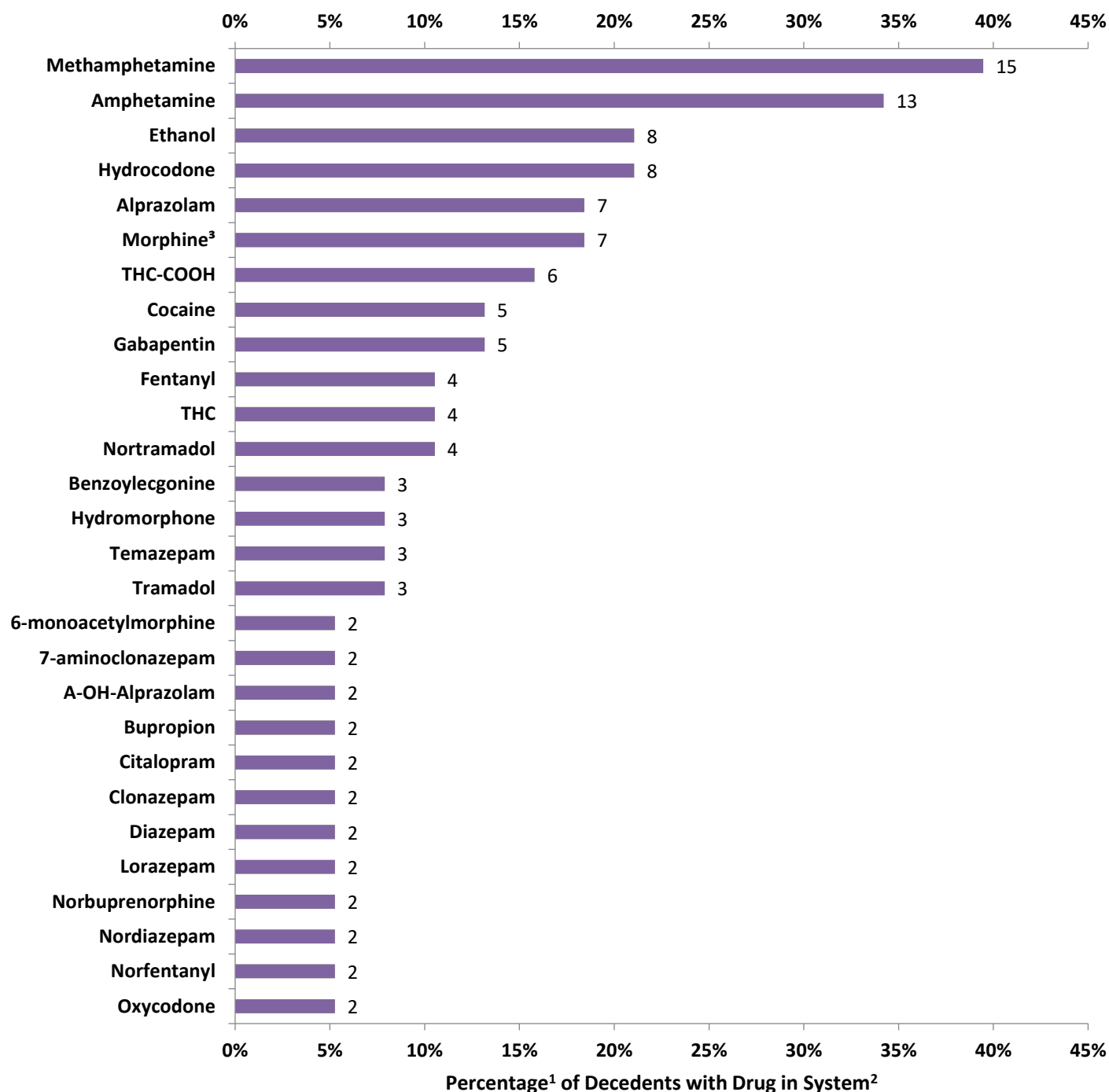
<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

<sup>3</sup>Opioids includes all opium-like substances (including natural opiates and synthetic opioids).

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*



Figure 44. Most Frequent Drugs Detected in WKME Drug-Related Cases, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off the total number of WKME drug-related cases (n=38). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

<sup>3</sup>Morphine represents true drug and/or metabolite of heroin.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Table 27. Additional Drugs Detected in WKME Drug-Related Cases, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>

Drug Name	Total	Percentage
Butalbital	1	2.63%
Carfentanil	1	2.63%
Codeine	1	2.63%
Doxylamine	1	2.63%
Fluoxetine	1	2.63%
Furanylfentanyl	1	2.63%
Hydroxyzine	1	2.63%
Levetiracetam	1	2.63%
Metoprolol	1	2.63%
Norfluoxetine	1	2.63%
Oxazepam	1	2.63%
Quetiapine	1	2.63%
Venlafaxine	1	2.63%
Verapamil	1	2.63%

<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off the total number of WKME drug-related cases (n=38). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

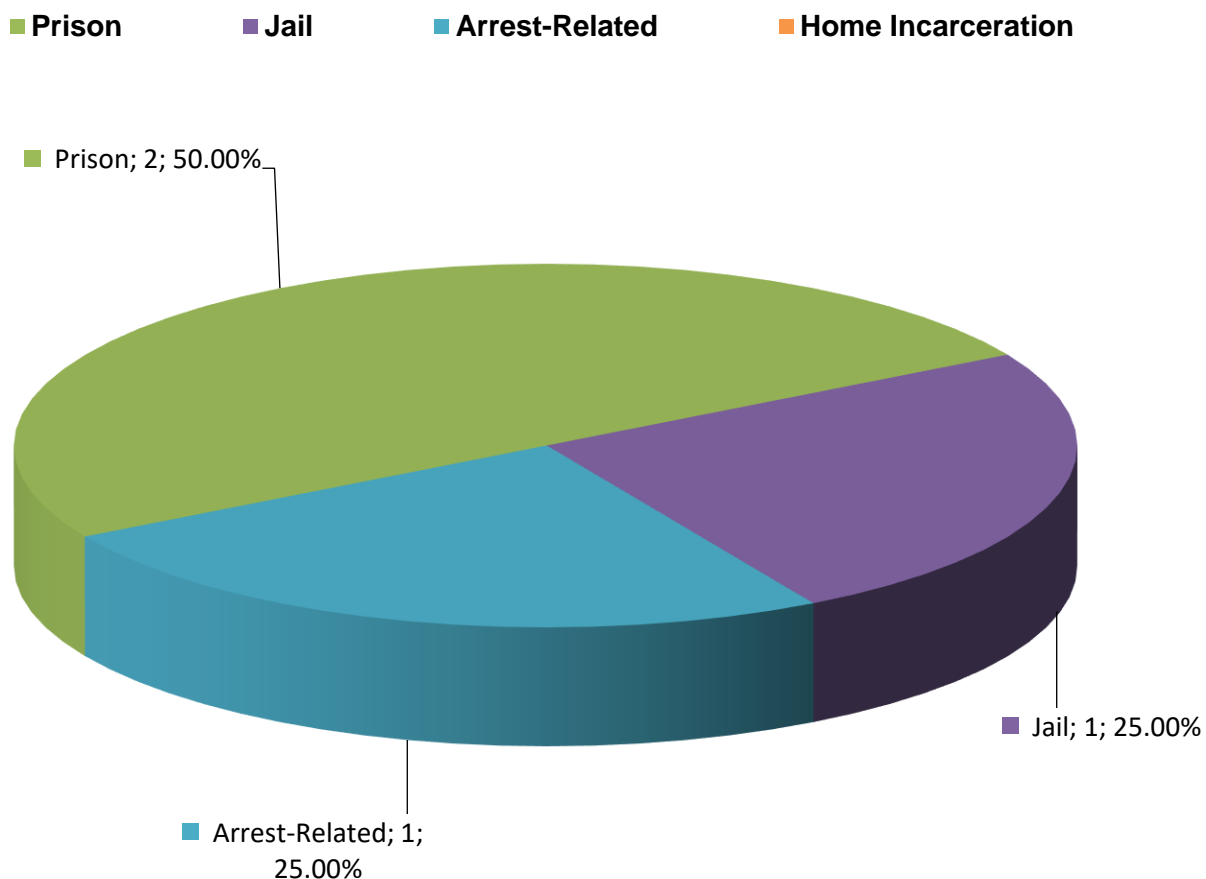
Table 28. WKME Cases with Special Circumstances by Manners of Death, 2017

Fatal Event	Total	Percentage
<b>Work-Related</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Police-Involved</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.15%</b>
Accident	1	25.00%
Homicide	2	50.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	1	25.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.30%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	5	62.50%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	2	25.00%
Undetermined	1	12.50%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Child Abuse</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.54%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	1	100.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Nursing Home</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 45. WKME Police-Involved Cases by Type of Police Involvement, 2017

N=4

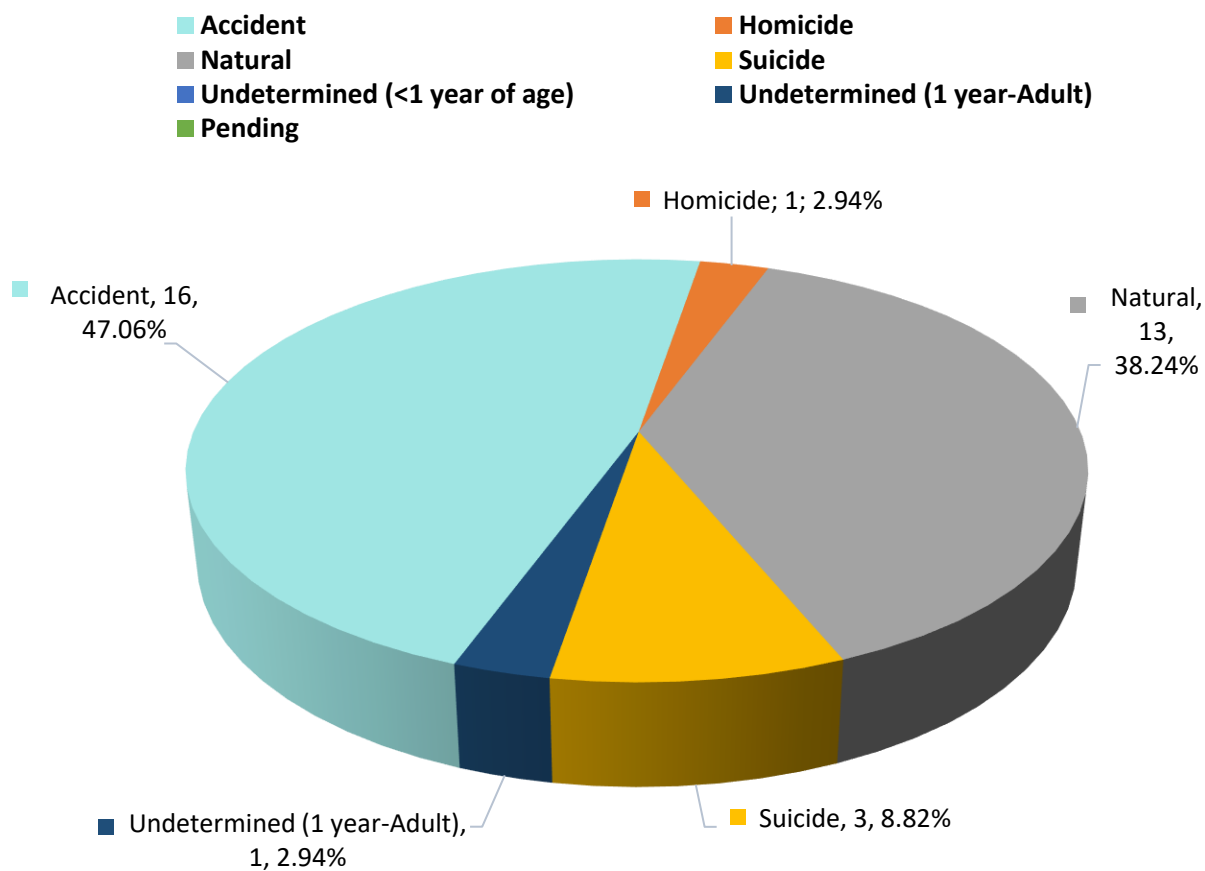


*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

# Northern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner Data

Figure 46. NKME Cases by Manner of Death, 2017

N=34



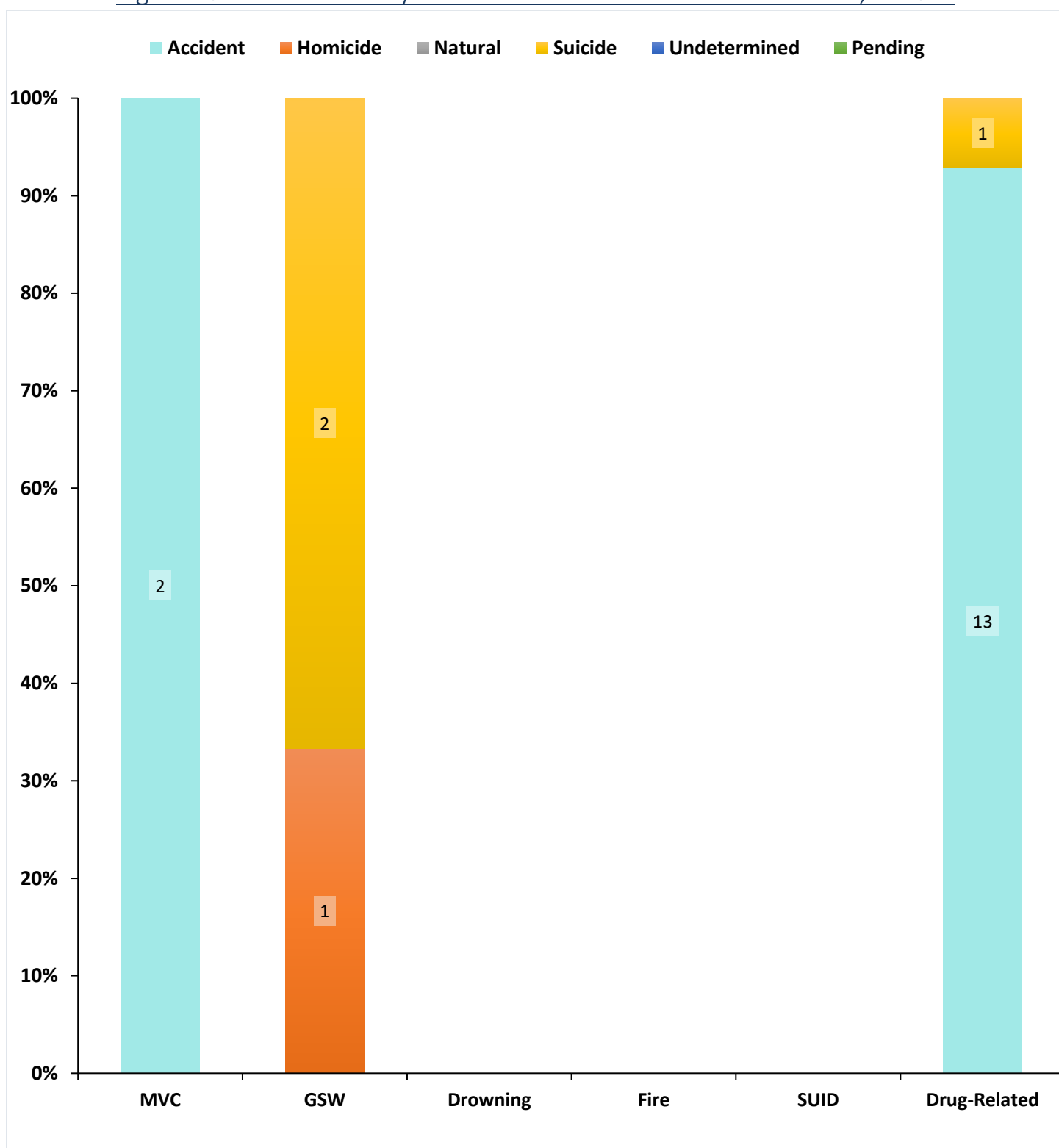
*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Table 29. NKME Cases by Common Causes of Death, 2017

<b>Cause of Death<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)	2	5.88%
Gunshot Wound (GSW)	3	8.88%
Drowning	0	0.00%
Fire	0	0.00%
SUID	0	0.00%
Drug-Related	14	41.18%
...Involving Heroin	6	42.86%
...Involving Fentanyl	10	71.43%
...Involving Methamphetamine	1	7.14%

<sup>1</sup>The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 47. NKME Cases by Common Causes of Death and Manner, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>

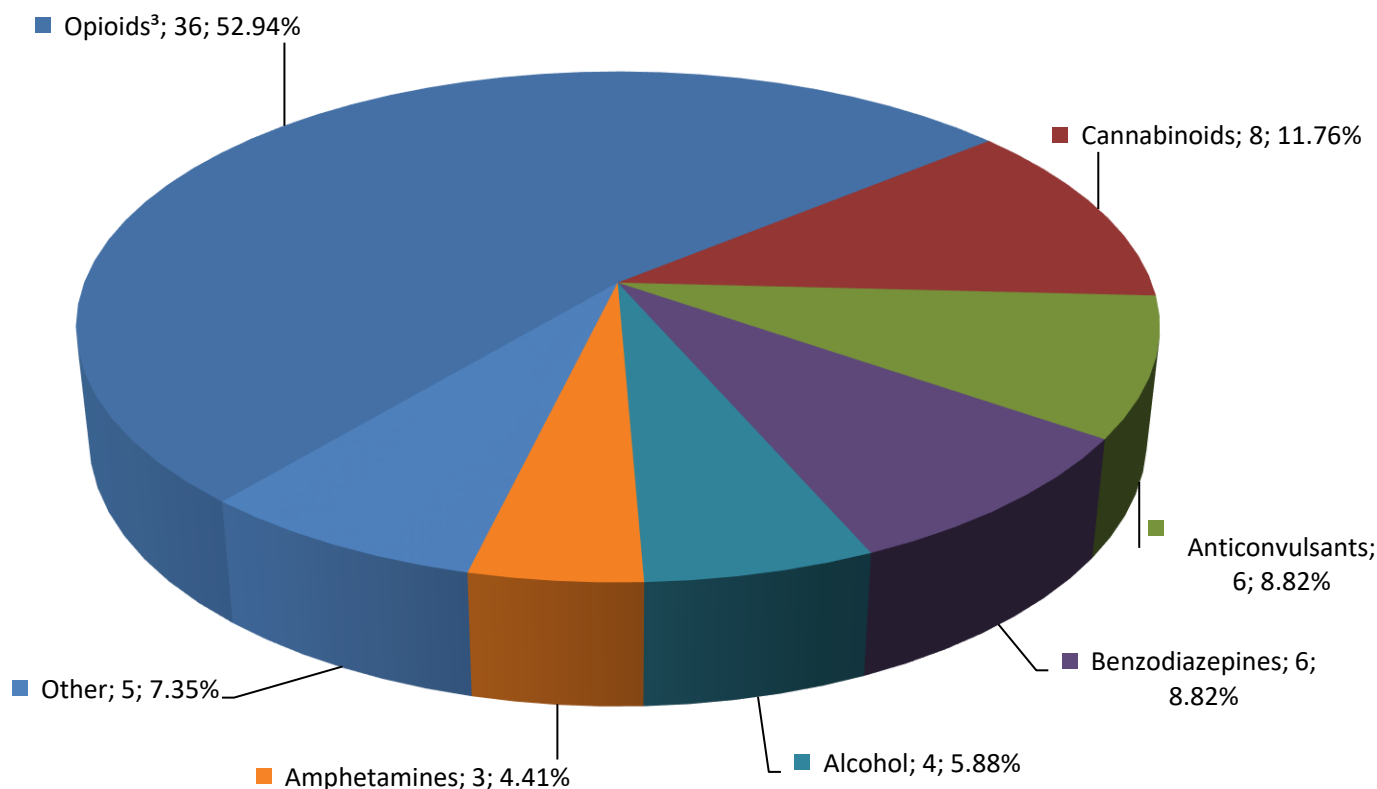
<sup>1</sup>The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

<sup>2</sup>Some decedents may have more than one cause of death; therefore, those decedents may be represented multiple times in chart.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*



Figure 48. Most Common Drug Classes Detected in NKME Drug-Related Cases, 2017<sup>1-2</sup>



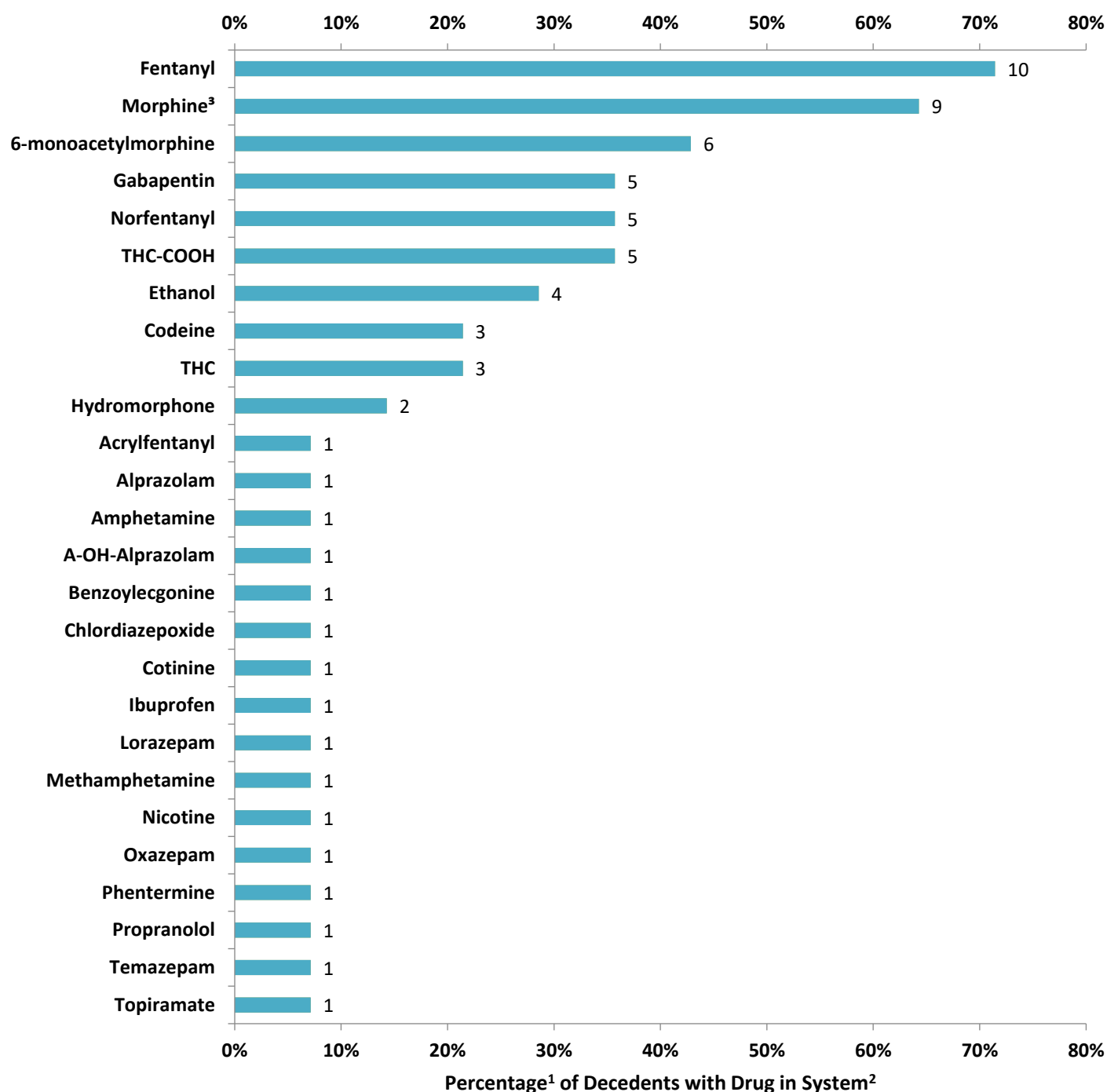
<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off of the total number of drugs identified across all NKME drug-related cases (n=68).

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

<sup>3</sup>Opioids includes all opium-like substances (including natural opiates and synthetic opioids).

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Figure 49. Most Frequent Drugs Detected in NKME Drug-Related Cases, 2017



<sup>1</sup>Percentage is based off the total number of NKME drug-related cases (n=14). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

<sup>2</sup>Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

<sup>3</sup>Morphine represents true drug and/or metabolite of heroin.

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

Table 30. Statewide ME Cases with Special Circumstances by Manners of Death, 2017

Fatal Event	Total	Percentage
<b>Work-Related</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Police-Involved</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Child Abuse</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
<b>Nursing Home</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%

*This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.*

# Additional Information

## Additional Data for 2017

### Scene Visits

In Kentucky, the county coroners and their deputies conduct the death investigations and scene visits. Kentucky's Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) trains coroners and deputy coroners. Scene visits by medical examiner regional offices are at the request of local law enforcement and/or county coroner.

- The OCME attended three (3) scenes.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office attended zero (0) scenes.
- The Western Kentucky Office attended zero (0) scenes.
- The Northern Kentucky Office attended zero (0) scenes.

### Bodies Transported

Due to the combined Coroner/Medical Examiner system, no regional Medical Examiner Office transports bodies or arranges/orders the transport of bodies. This duty falls under the purview of the county coroner in which the death occurred. Therefore, zero (0) bodies were transported by any regional office.

### Hospital Autopsies

Due to the combined Coroner/Medical Examiner system, the Regional Medical Examiner's Offices do not have jurisdiction over hospital deaths and autopsies. There were zero (0) hospital autopsies retained under ME jurisdiction.

### Organ and Tissue Donation

- Of the 1,376 cases undergoing postmortem examinations by the OCME, 8 were organ donations, 25 were tissue donations, and 3 were both organ and tissue donations.
- Of the 875 cases undergoing postmortem examinations by the Eastern Kentucky Office, 3 were organ donations, 15 were tissue donations, and 3 were both organ and tissue donations.
- Of the 186 cases undergoing postmortem examinations by the Western Kentucky Office, 0 were organ donation, 4 were tissue donations, and 0 were both organ and tissue donation.
- Of the 34 cases undergoing postmortem examinations by the Northern Kentucky Office, 0 were organ donation, 0 were tissue donation, and 0 were both organ and tissue donation.

### Unclaimed Bodies

Due to the combined Coroner/Medical Examiner system, the Regional Medical Examiner's Offices do not have responsibility over unclaimed bodies. This is the duty of the county coroner. Therefore, there were zero (0) unclaimed bodies in 2017.

### Type of Postmortem Examination

#### *Exhumations*

- The OCME had zero (0) postmortem examinations from an exhumation in 2017.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office had zero (0) postmortem examinations from an exhumation in 2017.
- The Western Kentucky Office had zero (0) postmortem examinations from an exhumation in 2017.
- The Northern Kentucky Office had zero (0) postmortem examinations from an exhumation in 2017.

*Complete Autopsies*

- The OCME performed 1,074 complete autopsies in 2017.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office performed 625 complete autopsies in 2017.
- The Western Kentucky Office performed 149 complete autopsies in 2017.
- The Northern Kentucky Office performed 25 complete autopsies in 2017.

*Focused Examinations*

- The OCME performed 70 focused examinations in 2017.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office performed 75 focused examinations in 2017.
- The Western Kentucky Office performed 19 focused examinations in 2017.
- The Northern Kentucky Office performed 2 focused examinations in 2017.

*External Autopsies*

- The OCME performed 228 external examinations in 2017.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office performed 174 external examinations in 2017.
- The Western Kentucky Office performed 17 external examinations in 2017.
- The Northern Kentucky Office performed 7 external examinations in 2017.

*Skeletal Remains Examinations*

- The OCME performed 4 skeletal remains examinations.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office performed 1 skeletal remains examination.
- The Western Kentucky Office performed 1 skeletal remains examination.
- The Northern Kentucky Office performed 0 skeletal remains examinations.

## Glossary

**Autopsy** – A detailed postmortem external and internal examination of a body to determine cause of death.

**Manner of Death** – The general category of the condition, circumstances or event, which causes the death. The categories are *accident, homicide, natural, suicide, pending, and undetermined*.

**Accident** – The *manner of death* used when, in other than *natural deaths*, there is no evidence of intent. The death occurs as a result of an unforeseen event.

**Homicide** – The *manner of death* used when, an act or omission directed at another person results in death. The medical examiner does not determine whether or not a criminal act has occurred.

**Natural** – The *manner of death* used when solely a disease causes death. If death is hastened by an injury, the *manner of death* is not considered natural.

**Suicide** – The *manner of death* in which death results from intentional act by one's self.

**Pending** – The *manner of death* is deferred because an ongoing investigation cannot be determined until ongoing investigation procedures immediately due to ongoing investigation procedures and is deferred until the investigation is complete.

**Undetermined** – The *manner of death* for deaths in which there is no clear determination of one manner over another.

**Office of the Medical Examiner** - the Office of the Medical Examiner investigates deaths occurring in the state of Kentucky, as authorized by Kentucky's elected coroners. The staff assists Kentucky coroners and law enforcement agencies in all aspects of death investigations by determining the cause and manner of death, identification of the deceased, and collection and interpretation of trace evidence.

**Special Circumstances** – When the death occurs in a special location or circumstance, such as deaths occurring in an institution, at the workplace, or in police custody.